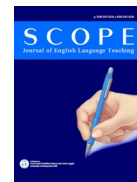




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Research Article

Psychological Approach in Personality Development of Theodore Decker's Character in "The Goldfinch"

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KEYWORDS

personality development;
 main character;
 psychological approach;
 literature analysis.

A B S T R A C T

The research aims to describe the personality and the personality development of Theodore Decker through psychosocial development perspectives in the main character of The Goldfinch novel. His personality becomes an example of how family and social environment contribute to the development of one's personality. The research method used in understanding and in analysing the novel was descriptive qualitative. The research results are: According to Erik Erikson's eight stages in psychosocial development theory, Theo has passed four major stages they are the stages of initiative vs guilt (14%), industry vs inferiority (14%), identity vs role confusion (46%), and intimacy vs isolation (29%). Theo struggles to pass the stage of identity vs role confusion. It has led him to the situation where he faces difficulties on understanding his identity and role within society. Theo is grown up as a person with less empathy for others, struggles with his drug addiction, and has trouble making commitments; Erik Erikson's psychosocial development of the personality emphasizes the social influences in the development of the ego. Erikson's theory of psychosocial development has eight distinct stages. Completing each step results in a healthy personality and the acquisition of the ego to resolve subsequent crises. Conversely, failure to complete a set will lead to ability reduction in completing further stages and an unhealthier personality and sense of self. Instead of focusing on sexual development, this theory is interesting in how children socialize and how social environment affects their senses.

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INTRODUCTION

It is always hard to grow up without mother or father or even both of them. Parents are living models for their children. They have important roles in bringing up and leading the children into 'real life'. Father as the head of the family should be able to protect and to support

children and wife. Mother plays the nurturing part. Mother is the one who is there for children on daily basis. Mother becomes a friend, a teacher, as well as a parent to her children. Mother and father earn respect and love from their children. The absence of parents in children's life will influence the development of their personalities. Children who grow up without parents tend to be shy and have introverted personalities. They have a lack of

confidence in their goals in life. In general, the absence of parents during the development of children can be one of the reasons that prevent the normal development of children's personalities. The *Goldfinch* is one literary work that can elaborate those situations into an interesting story. Talked about Donna Tartt, she has become a female American author who receives critical acclaim for her first two novels, *The Goldfinch* tells us about Theodore Decker's life that suffers due to the separation of his parents at an early age, the losing of his mother during his adolescence, and growing older without no caring for both father and mother.

The researchers find that *The Goldfinch* is a very interesting novel to follow. The detail of Theodore Decker's personality development has become one of the strongest points of this novel. Therefore it has become the subject of this research. Theodore's personality is important to become the subject of this research because the main character of *The Goldfinch* novel, his personality becomes an example of how family and social environment contribute to the development of one's personality. To provide the readers with a sufficient explanation, the researchers use Erikson's psychosocial development theory in analyzing Theo's personality. The researchers use eight stages of Erikson's psychosocial development theory to understand Theodore Decker's personality development in 'The Goldfinch' novel by Donna Tartt. To have a better understanding of this novel interpretation, the researchers should read other sources as well. To find out whether the work has reflected the meaning, this novel will give a clear description of the work (Retnomurti, 2015).

According to Chung (2018), Literature is not only about ideas but also about the experience. Al-Sadoon (2021) states that Literature is a complex structure. Dealing with Psychology of Literature, written works provide entertainment and are delivered in beautiful language and contain life and moral values (Barbeito Varela, 2018). Warnita, et. al., (2021) affirm that it is an idea and emotion that arises from the author's thoughts. According to Gevel (2021), the literature is a piece of great literature is a new creative. These statements above have highlighted that great literature can only come from a skilled author. Koole, et. al., (2019:219) state, "A character is an actor who carries out events in a fictional story so that the event is able to weave a story". From the statements above, the researchers can draw the initial perception on the character that it refers to people who have built the story.

Similar opinion about the character is stated by Rokhmansyah (2014), character refers to the person, the actor of the story. There were primary and minor characters. Also, Smythe (2017) argues that story

characters are people shown in a narrative or drama. The quotations above tell us how important character is in the literature. According to Coppock, et. al., (2014), characterization is the depiction of a clear picture of a person and is shown in a story. One of the most important aspects of characters in literature is how they are presented to the reader. According to Siaputra (2010), Psychology may be defined as the science that studies the behavior of men and other animals. Science that seeks to understand human behavior, the reasons for and the way they do things (King, 2015). Human Development Theory is one of theories in Psychology that focuses on general factors that influence the development process that occur in the typical person. Personality Development Theory which is in many situations we probably come across questions related to personality such as Why do people act as they do? What makes people act in predictable or unpredictable ways? Do people have some options in shaping their personality? Is human behavior shaped more by heredity or by environment? Warnita, et. al., (2021) explain that based on the psychoanalytic approach, people move through a series of stages in which they conform to conflicts between biological drives and social expectations. Warnita, et. al., (2021) further explain that personality originates from the Latin persona, which refers to a theatrical mask worn by Roman actors in Greek dramas. According to Freud's theory, three parts of the personality are id, ego, superego that become integrated during a sequence of five stages of development in human's life. Koole, et. al., (2019) expands Freud's theory, emphasizing the social dimension of the personality development. The psychosocial theory has described eight stages of development over our lifespan, from infancy through late adulthood. At each stage, there is a crisis or task that we need to resolve. Successful completion of each developmental task results in a sense of competence and a healthy personality. Failure to master these tasks leads to the incomplete development of personality.



Figure 1. The Eight Stages of Psychosocial Development Theory

Koole, et. al., (2019) point out that normal development must be understood, concerning each culture's life situation. King (2015) mentions that work can be considered fictional if and only if it results from coming interconnected utterances, a reasonable number of which count as 'fictive' (King, 2015). According to Siaputra (2010), serious novels usually reveal new things in a new way of pronunciation.

The researchers find some previous research that can be as considerations. At this point, the researchers try to explain what the previous researchers discussed in their research, and the researchers will take some points of their research gaps, as follows: Ratnawulan (2018) and Nurachmad (2015) conduct almost similar research about the *Dead Souls* Novel by Nikolai Vaselevic Gogol'. The title of Ratnawulan's research is "Personality Analysis of Major Figures in the Novel *Dead Souls* by Nikolai Vasilevic Gogol." She discusses the main character's personality, named Chichikov, which is analyzed using Freud's theory of Psychoanalysis. The method used is known as the 'descriptive-analytical method'. The results of the analysis of her research stated that Chichikov's deviated behaviour is because he does not have a balanced personality structure. Childhood has no critical influence on the formation of a person's character. On the other side, Putri's research (2008) entitled "Aspect of Morality Analysis of the Novel "Veronika Decides to Die" By Paulo Coelho" employs a psychological approach in the analysis process. From the first and second research, the researchers learn that even though they use the literature psychology method and equally focus their research on intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the novel, they have used Freud's theory to analyze the main character. In their research, the researchers decide to use Erikson's psychosocial development theory to understand the personality of Theodore Decker, the novel's main character. Putri's research is unclear about the psychological theory she uses to analyze the characters. In her abstract, she just mentions that she conducts the moral analysis of the main character of Paulo Coelho's novel. Most likely, she also uses Freud's theory in analyzing her main character.

METHOD

The literary works are also considered the product of the psychology of the author (Lai, 2011). It is considered as the subconscious product of the author that is transferred to become the conscious product. The state of the subconscious and conscious always happens to the author while they produce a novel or story (Oztemel and Gursev, 2020). Literature psychology treats literature as activities of the soul. Through characters in novels/dramas/poems, the writers reflect on their experiences in life (Donaldson and Ko, 2010). Literature and Psychology are

interrelating to each other, indirectly and functionally. It happens because Literature and Psychology share a similar object that is human beings (Kalat, 2016).

In conducting this research, the researchers used the descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative research emphasizes the importance of looking at variables in the natural setting in which they are found. Interaction between variables is important (Sousa, 2014). Detailed data was gathered through open-ended questions that provide direct quotations. As Al-Sadoon (2021) says that descriptive qualitative research is a comprehensive summarization, in everyday terms, of specific events experienced by individuals or groups of individuals. He explains that qualitative descriptive research: should be seen as a categorical, as opposed to a non-categorical, alternative for inquiry; is less interpretive than an 'interpretive description' approach because it does not require the researcher to move as far from or into the data; and, does not require a conceptual or highly abstract rendering of the data, compared to other qualitative designs search.

A qualitative descriptive approach needs to be the design of choice when a straightforward description of a phenomenon is desired (Brown, 2010). It is an approach that is very useful when the researchers want to know, about events, who are involved, what is involved, and where things take place (Pathak, Jena and Kalra, 2013).

In this research, the researchers employed the psychological approach in Erikson's psychosocial development approach to understand Theo's personality development in Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch* based on (Orenstein and Lewis, 2021). The psychological approach is intrinsic approach, which discusses the literary works on the elements which develop the literary works from the inside (Vallacher, Van Geert, and Nowak, 2015). This approach examines the literary work as an autonomous work irrespective of social background, history, biography of the author, and all things that exist outside of literature (Boker, 2012). The basic assumption of this approach is that literary work is an autonomous work and it can be understood with an integral unity with its constituent elements which are interlinked with each other (Covington and Mueller, 2001).

Erikson's psychosocial development approach is psychological is focused on analyzing some extrinsic aspects. This approach is used to reveal problems inside the character's psyche (Vanhercke, et. al., 2014). This approach uses psychological references as a device to help the researchers translate the discussion into literature. The theory of psychology in literary works can explain the character and situation in the story because the psychological phenomenon can be seen through the character's attitude. As Jackson (2014:67) affirms that "Structuralism gives attention to the study of literary text elements to explain precisely as possible the functions and linkages among the various elements of literary works that simultaneously generates comprehensiveness". This makes the integration of the intrinsic elements and extrinsic which have resulted from a literary work. Relied on those theories, this literary analysis activity will be

more focused and unified, and controlled, protected from the following analysis which is randomized and irrational (Jackson, 2014). A theory which composes of some of the basic concepts and writer’s ways of thinking a foothold in this research activity to reveal the personality development of Theo in Donna Tartt’s *The Goldfinch*.

In preparing for this research, the researchers collected the data using the library research method. The method that was used in collecting important data and information was reading books or other written references, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and internet articles. To know what the subject is, the researchers use Donna Tartt’s novel, *Goldfinch* as the source of data. To make the research systematic and focus on the main problem of the research, the researchers conclude the focus and sub-focus of the research which the researchers take the psychosocial development theory to understand Theodore Decker’s personality, the main character of Donna Tartt’s the *Goldfinch*. The sub-focus of this research is *The Goldfinch* novel. This novel was written by Donna Tartt. *The Goldfinch* was published by Little, Brown, and Company in October 2013 and had been on the New York Times best-seller list for seven months, sold a million and a half print and digital copies, and drawn a cornucopia of rave reviews, including one in the daily New York Times and another in the Sunday New York Times Book Review. In April it won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. To analyze a film, the instruments used by the writer were: (1) the researchers or the writers themselves because data collection cannot be done through an intercessor or other people; (2) the primary data source of the research was *The Goldfinch* the Donna Tartt’s novel; (3) the secondary data source, including written references and materials related to the research whether picking up from some books of the literary theories, dictionaries and the official website related to the subject.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Theodore Decker's personality development is explained by the researchers in this section. To start with, the researchers explain Theodore’s personality and then the researchers use Erick Erikson’s eight stages of psychosocial development to explain Theo’s personality development. Erickson mentions that personality development is a lifetime process. Each stage of the eight stages of psychosocial development is related one to another. One should pass each stage to have the result of a good personality. Erikson use Freud's psychosexual theory as the base of his psychosocial development theory.

Table 1. The Eight Stages in Psychosocial Development Theory by Erik Erikson

Approximate Age	Virtues	Psychosocial Crisis	Significant Relationship
Infancy, 0-1 Years	Hope	Basic trust vs Mistrust	Family

Approximate Age	Virtues	Psychosocial Crisis	Significant Relationship
Early childhood, 1–3 years	Will		
Preschool age, 3–6 years	Purpose		Parents
School-age, 6–12 years	Competence		Family
Adolescence, 13–19 years	Fidelity	Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt	Initiative vs. Guilt
Early adulthood, 20–39 years	Love	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Friends, Partners
Adulthood, 40–64 years	Care	Generativity vs. Stagnation	Household, Workmates
Maturity, 65-death	Wisdom	Integrity vs. Despair	Mankind, My Kind

From the novel, the researchers find that during this age, Theodore fears to lose his mother at the same time he is scared of his father as stipulated in Theo’s statements as follow:

When I was little, four or five, **my greatest fear** was that someday **my mother might not come home** from work. (p.67, Tartt).

Usually, she was home just when she said she’d be, so **if she was ten minutes late, I began to fret**; any later, and I sat on the floor by the front door of the apartment like a puppy left alone too long, straining to hear the rumble of the elevator coming up to pour floor (p.67, Tartt).

To think of something happening to my mother was especially frightening because my dad was so unreliable. (p.67, Tartt)

... I would contrive to be out of the apartment before he woke from his sweaty, tangled sleep on the sofa. Otherwise, **we would spend the whole day creeping around, afraid of shutting the door too loudly or of disturbing him in any way**, while he sat Stoney-faced in from of the television with a Chinese beer from the takeout place and a glassy look in his eye, watching the news for sports with the sound off. (p.69 Tartt)

Theodore was disliked by his father because of his father’s behaviour. The statements are depicted below.

Apart from his daily awkwardness, I didn’t see him much. He didn’t eat dinner with us or attend school

functions; he didn't play with me or talk to me a lot when he was at home; in fact, he was seldom home at all until after my bedtime, and some days-paydays, especially, three or four in the morning: banging the door, dropping his briefcase, crashing and bumping around so erratically that **sometimes I bolted awake in terror, staring at the glow-in-the-dark planetarium stars on the ceiling and wondering if a killer had broken into the apartment.** Luckily, when he was drunk, his footsteps slowed to jarring and unmistakable cadence-Frankenstein septets, as I thought of them, deliberate and clumping, with absurdly long pauses between each football-and as soon as I realized it was only him thudding around out there in the dark and not some serial murderer or psychopath, I would drift back into a fretful doze. (p.68, Tartt)

In many respects, **it was a relief to have my father out of the picture.** Certainly, **I didn't miss him much,** and my mother didn't seem to miss him either. (p.70, Tartt).

Erikson's theory mentioned that at this stage children develop to become a child with courage and independence. Courage and independence are related to the process of how the children plan and execute their plans. This stage of development also relates to how the children interact with others in social life. Failure to pass this stage will cause a lack of courage and independence in the children.

1. Theodore age 6–12 years old (industry vs inferiority)

At age of 12, Theo had been in trouble at school and becomes a rebellious child as shown in the statement below:

... Tom's cigarette was only the tip of the iceberg. **I'd been in trouble at school for a while.** (p.11, Tartt)

At the same time, Theo continually disliked his father and started to build the feeling that he and his mother did not care for his father. It can be seen from the statement as follow:

... **We'd never liked him much,** and my mother and I were generally happier without him. (p.12, Tartt).

Children at this age become more aware of themselves as individuals. They work hard at "being responsible, being good, and doing it right." They are now more reasonable to share and cooperate. Children grasp the concepts of [space](#) and time in more logical, practical ways. They gain a better understanding of cause and effect and of calendar time. Children are eager to [learn](#) at this stage and accomplish more complex skills: reading, writing, and telling time. They also get to form [moral values](#), recognize cultural and individual differences, and can manage most of their personal needs and grooming with minimal assistance. At this stage, children might express their

independence by talking back and being disobedient and rebellious. Children who fail at this stage will develop inferior personalities (Batra, 2013:255).

2. Theodore age 13–19 years old. (Ego identity vs role confusion)

Theo got suspended due to cigarette smoking on the school property and during school hours. That situation is described in the situation as follows:

... that morning we didn't have much to say because **I'd been suspended from school.** ... I didn't even know what I'd been suspended for, although I was about seventy-five percent sure that Mr. Beeman had looked out the window of the second-floor landing at exactly the wrong moment and seen **me smoking on school property.**

Theo felt that he is the cause of his mother's death as mentioned in below description:

Her death was my fault. Other people have always been a little too quick to assure me that it wasn't; and yes, only a kid, who could have known, terrible accident, rotten luck, could have happened to anyone, it's all perfectly true and I don't believe a word of it. (p.9, Tartt)

Theo has fallen to Pippa the girl whom he met at the museum during the terrorist bomb attack. The descriptions are as follow:

... she was younger than me and a little strange **looking-nothing at all like the girls I usually got crushes on,** cool serious beauties who cast disdainful looks around the hallway and went out with big guys. (p.31, Tartt)

I inclined my head in my mother's direction, in an attitude of attentive listening, while **my eyes wandered back to the girl.** (p.31, Tartt)

I allowed myself **another stealthy glimpse in the girl's direction.** Then-quite suddenly-she turned and looked me in the eye; and in a heart-skip of confusion, I looked away. (p.34)

Suddenly **she sat up, put her arms around me, and kissed me; and all the blood rushed from my head, a long sweep like I was falling off the cliff.** (p192, Tartt).

... her kiss (with the peculiar flavor of what I now believe to have been a morphine lollipop) was still sticky on my lips. Yet I'm not so sure that even morphine would account for how lightheaded **I felt at that moment, how smilingly wrapped up in the happiness and beauty.** (p. 193, Tartt).

... I sailed home on the bus, melting with sorrow and loveliness, a starry ache that lifted me above the windswept city like a kite: **my head in the rainclouds, my heart in the sky.** (p.194, Tartt)

Theo gets acquainted with Boris, a troubled kid that has led him to the habit of drinking alcohol, stealing money from others, skipping school, and smoking pot. Those encounters are described in the situation below:

... so shaky with nerves I sometimes worried I would blackout – but soon **I was filling my own pockets with apples and chocolate** (other favored food items of Boris's) before walking up brazenly to the counter to buy bread and milk and other items too big to steal. (p.306, Tartt)

That night, **at Boris's-lying drunk on my half of the batik, draped mattress-** ... (p.313, Tartt)

Boris and I lay on the floor in front of the television at my house, eating potato chips and **drinking vodka**, watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. (p.326, Tartt)

... we were sitting on the kitchen counter **smoking my dad's Viceroys** and talking. It was almost noon – too late **to even think about going to school.** (p.342, Tartt).

... Boris and I had wholeheartedly **taken to smoking pot ourselves** in the past months. (p.362, Tartt)

Theo continually disliked his father even though he stayed with him in Vegas. This statement is strengthened by the situation below:

"That's bullshit," I said, sitting up, throwing my comic book aside. "My mother-"how could I explain it – "you don't understand, **he was an asshole to us**, we were lad when he left. ..." (p. 350, Tartt)

"That was your father that died. Your father. And you act like it was, I don't know, I'd say the dog, but not even the dog. Because I know you'd care if it was the dog got hit by a car, at least I think you would." (p.458, Tartt)

Theo did not enjoy his school time, especially during his early college. This situation is clearly described as follows:

"Theodore participates very little in class and appears to have no desire to expend any more attention on his studies than necessary," writes my French professor, in a scathing midterm report ... (p.512, Tartt).

Adolescent is newly concerned with how they appear to others. The ability to settle on a school or occupational identity is pleasant. In later stages of Adolescence, the child develops a sense of sexual identity. As they make the transition from childhood to adulthood, adolescents ponder the roles they will play in the adult world. Eventually, Erikson proposed, most adolescents achieve a sense of identity regarding

who they are and where their lives are headed. This passage is necessary as stated by (Batra, 2013:259), "Throughout infancy and childhood, a person forms many identifications, but the need for identity in youth is not met by them." This turning point in human development seems to be the reconciliation between 'the person one has come to be' and 'the person society expects one to become.

3. Theodore age 20–39 years old (Intimacy vs. isolation).

At the age of 24, Theo had become a businessman. He sold the fake antique to collectors and gained a big profit out of it. It is described in the situation below:

For I'd intentionally **sold a fake to a client**, and the client had figured it out and was kicking up a fuss. (p. 558, Tartt)

Theodore, despite his young age, had become a drug addict. It showed on several occasions as described below:

But at that point, unfortunately, I found myself sitting there more often than not waiting for Jerome, the bike messenger **I bought my drugs** from. (p.565, Tartt).

That night when I got back from the Barbours' **I swallowed a long-acting morphine tablet, as was my habit** ... (p.589, Tartt)

Theo loved Pippa and it has hurt him to know that she is with someone else. It shows in the description below:

Every moment of **their visit had been torture.** (p.572, Tartt)

I was irritated at how I felt (p.573, Tartt)

For years she had been the first thing I remembered when I woke up, the last thing that drifted through my mind as I went to sleep, and **during the day she came to me obstructive, obsessively, always with painful shock** ... (p.576, Tartt)

It was hopeless. **More than hopeless: humiliating.** (p.576, Tartt)

Theodore decided to marry Kitsey Barbours, Andy's sister, whom he knows since school age.

Not that Kitsey and I weren't very different people, as well, but that was all right ... wasn't **marriage supposed to be a union of opposites?** (p.632, Tartt)

We had fun together. We got on. (p.633, Tartt)

She was the one who had asked me to marry (p.634, Tartt)

Theodore left Kitsey on the day of their engagement for pursuing The Goldfinch painting. It describes in

the situation below:

“I’m going... if anyone asks, I’m away on business. (p.793, Tartt).

People at this stage become worried about finding the right partner or spending the rest of their lives alone. Young adults are most vulnerable to feeling intimacy and loneliness because this is the phase where a lot of interactions with other people occur. Erikson believed that a strong [sense of personal identity](#) was important for developing intimate relationships.

4. Theodore age 40–64 years old (Generativity vs. stagnation)

from Theodore’s case, the researchers could not find any information about him when he was 40-64 years

old. In fact, during this stage, we continue to build our lives, focusing on our careers and family.

5. Theodore is 65-death old (Integrity vs. despair).

The final psychosocial stage occurs during old age and is focused on reflecting on life. At this point in development, people look back on the events of their lives and determine if they are happy with the life that they lived or if they regret the things they did or didn't do. The expectation is getting information about Theo at this life stage. Unfortunately, the researchers could not find any information about Theo’s death in this novel.

From the findings, the researchers make tabulation to make it systematic and practical to be understood. The table is as follows:

Table 2. Psychosocial Development Stages

Theodore’s statement	Basic Trust vs Mistrust	Autonomy vs Shame and Doubt	Initiative vs Guilt	Industry vs Inferiority	Ego Identity vs Role Confusion
Theodore Was afraid of losing his mother at the same time.....			■		
Theodore disliked his father.....			■		
Theo had been in trouble at school.....				■	
Theo continually disliked his father....				■	
Theo got suspended due to cigarette smoking on the school...					■
Theo felt that he was the cause...					■
Theo has fallen to Pippa the girl..					■
Theo got acquainted with Boris, a troubled kid.....					■
Theo continually disliked....					■
Theo did not enjoy his school time..					■
Theo had become a businessman..	■				
Theodore, despite his young age, had become...		■			
Theodore decided to marry....			■		
Theodore left Kitsey on the day of their engagement ...				■	

From the tabulation above, a table to sum the percentage of the research findings and also the pie chart diagram have been developed..

Table 3. Quantity Percentage of the Data

Psychosocial Development Stages	Quantity of the data that has been found	Percentage
Basic trust vs Mistrust	0	0
Autonomy vs shame and doubt	0	0
Initiative vs Guilt	2	14%
Industry vs Inferiority	2	14%
Ego identity vs Role Confusion	6	43%
Intimacy vs Isolation	4	29%
Generativity vs. stagnation	0	0
integrity vs despair	0	0
Total	14	100%

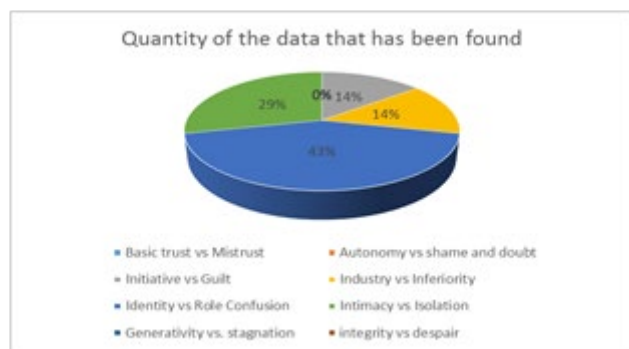


Figure 2. Quantity of the Data

Theodore Decker, the main character in *The Goldfinch* is very much influenced by his mother. He adores his mother and hated his father. Theo’s childhood is shadowed by the feeling of loss for his mother and the same time scared of his father’s presence. At age 4 or 5, he starts to hate his father due to his misbehavior. When we compare Theo’s feelings with Erikson’s stages of psychosocial development, it is obvious that mother has made Theodore dependent. The feeling towards his father has made it worse. Theo becomes somehow less courageous and independent. He fails to pass this stage therefore Theo struggled to achieve his maximum potential.

Entering the school, he turns to be a rebellious child. This happened as the manifestation of his feeling for his father because he abandoned Theo and his mother. He kept telling himself that both of them are happy without the presence of a father. The inability to express his feeling happens because he fails in the previous stage of psychosocial development. Theo adores his mother and he is very much dependent on her. Therefore, he has developed an inferior personality. It is difficult for Theo to make a choice and have a firm decision. He always doubts himself and tends to follow others.

The traumatic incident happened to Theo’s life during his adolescence and had shaped the rest of his personality. Mother whom he adored got killed due to the terrorist bombing and ever since he kept saying to himself that he was the one responsible for her death. It was difficult for him to get over his grief. The only person who could touch him was the girl he met at the museum and with whom he fell in love. It was love at first sight. Theo’s life gets worse when he has to move in with his father and girlfriend. He followed his father and stayed in Vegas. Theo thought that his father had changed. However, his old man has never changed. He tried to take advantage of Theo’s mother’s money. He forced Theo to call the lawyer and lied. Fortunately, Theo’s father’s plan failed. In addition to that situation, Theo chooses the wrong person as his best friend.

Boris is a bad influence on him; however, he cherishes his friendship with Boris despite several of Boris’ bad habits. Not long after that, Theo's father died in a car accident. Theo felt relieved yet afraid that the social services would ask him to move with his grandparents or father. The people whom he had never met, therefore, he ran away back to New York City to meet his dear friend. Situations in Theo’s life during his adolescence served as an excellent example to explain the stage of identity and role confusion, one of which is in psychosocial development theory. At this stage, Theo is confused about setting the priority of his life.

He is also full of doubts in making decisions. According to Erikson, this happened because, at an earlier age, Theo's personality failed to develop due to the influence of his parents and environment. To make it worse, the trauma of losing his mother has made him more confused about his life. It's fatal because he has wasted the golden opportunity to become someone without realising it. Theo’s experiences during his adolescence have created another damage to his early adulthood stage. He had become a person full of disguise.

He becomes a businessman who sells fake antiques, a drug addict, and an unfaithful lover. He can't see clearly

what his aim in life is. By looking at the findings and the percentage of data shown, the researchers conclude that Theodore Decker struggled to become a person with a good personality. Most of his traumatic incidents and the major event happened during the stage initiative vs guilt (14%), industry vs inferiority (14%), identity vs role confusion (46%), and intimacy vs isolation (29%) shaped his personality into an introvert person with less of courage and independent. He was afraid to pursue his dream and kept thinking he was the cause of his mother's death. Theo's life proves that a person's personality develops throughout the lifespan. Adulthood is not merely an impact of childhood. It is a continuation of development from the whole process—many factors and changes throughout life influence a person's personality

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings that have been explained previous, the researchers conclude that the novel describes the major four significant stages of Theo's life according to the eight stages of Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory they are (1) initiative vs guilt (14%); (2) industry vs inferiority (14%); (3) identity vs role confusion (46%), and (4) intimacy vs isolation (29%). The researchers conclude that Theo has struggled with the stage of identity vs role confusion has led him to the situation where he faces difficulties in understanding his identity and role within society. In his early adulthood, he was confused about his goal in life and his roles in society. As a result, Theo grew into a person with less empathy for others, faces drug addiction, and has difficulty committing. It happened because Theo failed to complete the early stages of personality development, causing his personality imperfection. Erikson's psychosocial development has eight distinct stages. According to the theory, successfully completing each stage leads to a healthy personality and the acquisition of the ego that can be used in resolving subsequent crises. On the other hand, failure to complete a stage can result in a reduced ability to complete further stages and, therefore, an unhealthier personality and sense of self. These stages, however, can be resolved successfully at a later time. Therefore, instead of focusing id, Erikson emphasized the influence of the social environment on ego development.

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