

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Intrinsic Elements

2.1.1.1 Character and Characterization

Abrams states that a character is a person whose action and speech in a narrative work show emotion, intellect, and moral of the story (2009:42). Abrams also states that characterization is the behavior and personality that can be seen from the characterization method of showing and telling (2009:43). Showing also called as indirect characterization, means the character's traits, thought, feeling, or behavior shown implicitly through the talking and acting. Meanwhile, telling is direct characterization, which means the author shows the character traits explicitly or authoritatively. Meanwhile, indirect characterization is (2009:43).

Moreover, Abrams states that the center interest of the story is the main character (2009:265). The main character appears from the beginning until the end of the story. The main character's feelings attract the audience's attention. From the character's action, speech, and feeling, Kayla's characterization will be seen in the next chapter through her action and speech in *Eighth Grade*.

2.1.1.2 Setting

A literary work has settings of time, place, and social circumstances. Abrams states that setting is the information about time, location, and circumstance of the

actions or scenes (2009:330). The settings of the story help to show specific information about the time, place, and circumstance of the story.

The setting of circumstance is the situation of the character or condition of social environment around the character in an action or in a whole story (2009:330). Social circumstance, especially social environment of the characters, is important because the social environment determines behavioral changes of the characters which can be seen in the daily activities of the characters in the story. Kayla situation and condition of social environment around her will be explained in the next chapter.

2.1.1.3 Conflict

Abrams states, conflict is an important part of the plot (2009:265). The plot is the structure of events and the character's actions in a story. Wellek and Warren (1963:217) states conflict in a story is called 'dramatic', conflict occurs when there is a meeting between equally strong forces and reciprocates with each other. Conflict is two opposite things that happen between a character with herself, character against nature, or a character with another character (1963:217). Internal conflict is the conflict that occurs between the character and herself. The external conflict is the conflict between character with another character. The story usually begins with introduces character, the setting, then shows character's conflict until the conflict becomes complex and reaches its climax. Kayla's internal and external conflict will be explained in the next chapter.

2.1.2 Extrinsic Elements

2.1.2.1 Alfred Adler's Theory of Inferiority Complex

Adler's theory of inferiority complex is part of individual psychology theory which focuses on self-esteem and compensation. According to Adler, an inferiority complex is an intensified inferiority feeling (2010:88). Inferiority complex is an overwhelming inferiority feeling which brings compensations to an individual.

2.1.2.1.1 Definition Inferiority Complex

According to Adler, the inferiority feeling means a feeling of weakness that is commonly felt by everyone, a normal feeling of weakness due to the helplessly that appears in childhood (1956:258). Normal inferiority feelings are healthy strivings with the purpose of her self-perfection by making positive contributions to society or achieving personal goals and happiness. The inferiority feeling or self-esteem becomes the inferiority complex when the strong inferiority feeling is felt by those who helplessly to overcome this intensified inferiority feeling by themselves.

Adler states that inferiority complex is an individual feeling of weakness or not good enough with other people (1956:257). Individual who feels inferiority complex wants to overcome her inferiority feeling, but it makes her more different or feels more inferior. Sometimes, the situation which makes individual difficult to overcome her inferiority feelings. She feels that she does not deserve and cannot be the person she wants to be. She often feels incapable because cannot

reach her expectations. The indicators that indicate Kayla inferiority feeling becomes the inferiority complex will be explained in the next chapter.

2.1.2.1.2 The Causes of Inferiority Complex

The individual personality developed in the early years of life. According to Adler, personality or children's style of life which are the way of acting, thinking, and feeling developed in their earliest childhood (1956:186). Adler also states the behavior of the individual based on their attitude and environment (1992:117). What she thinks and feels have been given from birth.

The unsupported social environment gives bad impacts. According to Adler, natural child's inferiority is she feels smaller and weaker, but she wants to be liked and accepted (2006:9). She feels other people is better than her. However, a child easily accepts an assessment from others. She starts to believe what other people see and say about her are indeed retarded. The labels are very strong triggers for feelings of inferiority. This will change the inferiority feeling to inferiority complex, because she feels unable to overcome her inferiority feelings because she has poor self-opinion.

According to Adler (1997:20), the role of parenting pattern of parents greatly affects children. Parents who support and listen to their children's wants will have good impacts. The relationship also shapes a child's personality. Parenting is very important for the formation of a child's emotions and personality. Adler states that human is weak, they need others to help their weakness (1997:20). A child has interlocking relationships with her mother and family (1997:20). The child learns how to live in the communities in her family.

However, not all children have good families and communities so they have difficulties overcoming their inferiority feeling. If their parents are good at parenting, the children will open up to their parents. In case Kayla's personality, labelling, parent-kid relationship, and social environment can be said to be the causes of the Kayla's inferiority complex that will be explained in the next chapter.

2.1.2.1.3 The Symptoms of Inferiority Complex

Adler states that the symptom of an inferiority complex is when an individual wants to overcome her inferiority complex but she feels that she feels helpless (1956:258). The symptoms of an inferiority complex can be seen in how an individual shows that she needs help without asking directly. The symptoms of an inferiority complex are signs or behaviors of people that mean different. That different behaviors are caused by some things that made them conscious and unconsciously do those things. Adler states people like to make community or being isolated individual (1997:20). Someone who has difficulty to having friends will become a loner even without realizing it.

Adler also states that human who has unresolved inferiority feeling and intensified will have struggles to reach environmental power (1992:57). A human who is always ignored and discriminated against by her environment will feel anxious about what things make her insecure. Based on that situation, feeling anxious is one of the characteristics of inferiority complex.

Adler believes the role of the parenting pattern of parents greatly affects children (1997:20). A child who has an inferiority complex increased for support,

especially from her parents. Parents who support and listen to their child's desires or choices will have good impacts. However, the inferiority feeling depends on the child's aim to overcome it. When she feels dependence to her relations or environment, it is a symptom of inferiority complex. How can Kayla's loneliness, feeling anxious, and dependence be seen as the symptoms of her inferiority complex will be explained in the next chapter.

2.1.2.1.4 The Impacts of Inferiority Complex

Adler believes, when an individual has inferiority feeling that is not too big, she always tries to be considered her existence and be useful in society (1956:155). This can be said as good compensation because the individual desire is to socialize. Therefore, the individual will ask to help indirectly because she feels helpless. Adler states people like to make a group or community, or be one of the members instead of being individualistic (1997:20). Socialization is important because social life will help individuals to overcome inferiority feelings, such as making friends or joining a community. An individual who has inferiority feeling will realize that she needs others. She should have to accept herself is and the situation first. Moreover, she knows what she will do to overcome her inferiority feeling, by making positive contributions for her personal goals. How healthy impacts of Kayla's inferiority complex will be explained in the next chapter.

2.1.2.1.5 The Psychological Treatment of Inferiority Complex

Adler states that one of inferiority feeling treatments is building self-confidence by encouraging herself to reach the positive desires (1997:31). The

individual has to realize and convince herself that she is capable to overcome her problems and difficulties, and her inferiority feeling. Adler also states that an individual has a strong inferiority feeling, she has more strong power to overcome that feeling (1956:116). How Kayla overcomes her inferiority complex will be explained in the next chapter.

2.2 Research Methods

John W. Creswell and J. David Creswell states that a research method is method of data collection and method of analysis to answer the research problems (2018:53). This research uses methods of library research and close watching, and the methods of data analysis is qualitative-descriptive, contextual analysis, and psychological approach.

2.2.1 Data and Data Source

The object of this research is a movie entitled *Eighth Grade* directed by Bo Burnham which was published in 2018. To analyze the data, the researcher uses primary data from the film script and the *Eighth Grade* movie and secondary data from books, journals, and articles that related to the topic.

2.2.2 Method of Data Collection

The writer uses library research and close watching to find information from any sources and make the analysis. George states that library research is identifying sources which present factual information and expert's opinion for the research problems (2008:6). For collecting the data, the writer collects two kinds of data, there are primary data from the film script and the *Eighth Grade* movie and secondary data are books, journals, and articles that related to the movie and

Alfred Alfred's theory of inferiority complex. The writer uses close watching method to well-understanding the movie, especially to find the answers of research problems.

2.2.3 Method of Data Analysis

This research uses the qualitative-descriptive method to analyze and deliver the research from film script and *Eighth Grade* movie descriptively. According to Mack, N., Woodson, C., MacQueen, K. M., and Guest, G. states qualitative research examines social and individual issues which often contrasts with her thoughts, emotions, behavior, or relationships (2005:1). Qualitative research obtains data from text or notes, recording, and transcript. This research uses contextual analysis. Bread states contextual analysis is analysis of the bigger issues which contributed in the production of the story (2001:6). The production of the story that incorporates character and characterization, settings, and conflict.

The writer applies the psychological approach of the movie. Abrams states that psychological approach is an approach of research that focuses on the indirect form, such as mind, behavior, personality in the character of the movie (1999:289). In the psychological approach, the character's mind, behavior, and personality are analyzed through the psychological lens. The writer uses using Alfred Alder's theory of inferiority complex to analyze Kayla's causes, symptoms, impacts of inferiority complex, and the psychological treatments that Kayla does to overcome her inferiority complex.