

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Adolescence is a stage of life that occurs between childhood and adulthood. During this stage, it is common to experience rapid physical and emotional changes. Adolescents will also begin to deal with real-life problems such as relationships and society. In building relationships, adolescents often face difficulties because this stage of life is the most vulnerable to feelings of inferiority. Adolescents who suffer from inferiority complexes may either excel in their academics or become antisocial and self-destructive. Their inferiority complexes may develop for various reasons, it may be biological, the result of being bullied, or because of emotional trauma.

According to Yan on the study about the relationship between adolescent's inferiority and grit in Jiangxi Province, it has been discovered that the majority of adolescents in some areas of Jiangxi suffer from inferiority complex, there are also significant differences in their birth order, birthplace, and gender (2019:286). This issue points out that an inferiority complex is not just a mere low self-esteem problem, but a psychological condition that needs to be taken seriously. The reflection of this psychological condition can also be seen in films. One of many films that shows the hardships of being an adolescent and having to deal with an inferiority complex is *The Edge of Seventeen*.

*The Edge of Seventeen* is an American coming-of-age comedy-drama film written and directed by Kelly Fremon Craig. This film depicts a high school junior's struggle to deal with her depression in an unsupportive environment. *The Edge of Seventeen* is chosen by the writer as the object of the thesis because of its unwavering portrayal and examination of adolescent mental health. The main character, Nadine Franklin, depicts how hard it is to be an adolescent in an unsupportive environment, which later leads to her inferiority complex. The writer is drawn to Nadine's character because of how realistic her character was made, how she is struggling with societal pressures, how she constantly hates herself, and how she tries to cope with it. Therefore, the writer decides to analyze Nadine Franklin's inferiority complex in *The Edge of Seventeen*. The writer will be using the concept of inferiority complex in Alfred Adler's individual psychology to analyze this film. In this research thesis, the symptoms of Nadine's inferiority complex, the causes of her inferiority complex, and the effects of her inferiority complex will be analyzed by the writer.

## **1.2. Research Problems**

Based on the topic and background of the research, there are some problems that are going to be analyzed. Those problems are as follows:

1. What are the symptoms of inferiority complex shown by Nadine Franklin in Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*?
2. What are the causes of Nadine Franklin's inferiority complex in Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*?

3. What are the effects of Nadine Franklin's inferiority complex on herself in Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*?

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the symptoms of inferiority complex shown by Nadine Franklin in Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*.
2. To analyze the causes of Nadine Franklin's inferiority complex in Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*.
3. To analyze the effects of Nadine Franklin's inferiority complex on herself in Kelly Fremon Craig's *The Edge of Seventeen*.

### **1.4. Scope of the Study**

In this research thesis, the writer will focus on analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of *The Edge of Seventeen* by Kelly Fremon Craig. The intrinsic elements that will be discussed are character and conflict, while the extrinsic elements to be discussed are the symptoms of inferiority complex, the causes of inferiority complex, and the effects of inferiority complex.

### **1.5. Previous Study**

There have been some previous studies with *The Edge of Seventeen* as the object of the study. The first previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Politeness Strategies on The Edge of Seventeen by Kelly Fremon Craig's Movie* written by

Yohana Vera Veronica (2018). This thesis discusses the kinds of politeness strategies used by the main character in the film by using the politeness theory by Brown and Levinson.

The second previous study is an academic journal entitled *Politeness Principle Used in The Edge of Seventeen Movie* written by Rizki Ashariah Sarwin (2021). Although this study and the first study both discuss about politeness, the theories are different. This journal discusses the politeness principle by Geoffrey Leech used by the characters in the film.

The third previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Gender and Impoliteness Strategies in The Edge of Seventeen Movie* written by Uul Lyatin (2021). This study examines the impoliteness found in the main character's utterances and associates it with gender differences.

The fourth previous study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs as Reflected by Nadine Franklin in Kelly Fremon Craig's The Edge of Seventeen* written by Ayni Raya (2019). This thesis uses Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs to analyze how the main character fulfills her needs.

The fifth previous study is a master thesis entitled *Flouting Maxim Used by the Main Character in The Edge of Seventeen Movie* by Tracy Rebecca H (2021). This thesis discusses the flouting maxim in the context of Grice's cooperative principle

theory, as well as the effects of the flouting maxim on its own in the context of Austin's perlocutionary effect theory.

The previous studies above have different main focuses, the first and the second previous studies focus on the politeness strategies, the third previous study focuses on gender differences and impoliteness strategies, the fourth previous study focuses on the hierarchy of needs, and the last previous study focuses on the kinds and effects of flouting maxim. Meanwhile, in this research thesis, the writer has a very different focuses by detailing the symptoms of inferiority complex, the causes of inferiority complex, and the effects of inferiority complex.

## **1.6. Organization of the Writing**

### **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

The first chapter of this research thesis consists of background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, scope of the study, previous study, and organization of the writing.

### **CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHOD**

The second chapter of this research thesis consists of the theories and methods that are used to analyze the film. Theories that are used are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements consist of character and conflict, while the

extrinsic elements are focusing on the concept of inferiority complex. Meanwhile, the

methods used in the thesis are method of data collection and research approach.

### **CHAPTER III: ANALYSIS**

The third chapter of this research thesis consists of the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the film. The analysis will be using the theories in the previous chapter.

### **CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION**

The last chapter of this research thesis consists of summary of the main points from the analysis and discussion of this thesis.