CHAPTER II
THEORY AND METHOD

2.1. Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic element is the component that builds a story from within the story itself. In this research thesis, intrinsic element is needed in order to gain a better understanding for the extrinsic analysis. There are two intrinsic elements that are going to be used by the writer, which are character and conflict.

2.1.1. Character

Character is an essential part of the intrinsic elements. It is an individual depicted in a dramatic or narrative work who possesses specific moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities (Abrams, 2014:32). The individual in character does not only stand for human being, it can also be animal, creature, or a thing. There are two types of character in a literary work, which are protagonist and antagonist. According to Holman, a protagonist is the leading character in any work of fiction who has the ability to elicit the audience's interest and sympathy through their heroic or disgraceful storyline (1980:355-356). Meanwhile, the antagonist is a character who opposes the protagonist and becomes their rival (Holman, 1980:25).

2.1.2. Conflict

Conflict is defined as a clash of actions, thoughts, or desires in the course of a story (Perrine, 1998:20). Conflict arises when individuals have opposing values,

viewpoints, needs, and concerns and are unable to reach an agreement. Conflict is categorized into internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict refers to a contradiction that the character must resolve on their own because it happens inside the character's mind, while external conflict refers to the opposition between the main character and another character over whom they have no control (Meyer, 2011:51). Internal and external conflict are both necessary for the development of the story and the character.

2.2. Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic element is a literary element that can be found outside the literary work. In this research thesis, the writer is focusing on psychological aspect of the film by using the concept of inferiority complex in Alfred Adler's individual psychology. The use of the concept of inferiority complex includes the symptoms, the causes, and the effects of inferiority complex.

2.2.1. Inferiority Complex

Feelings of inferiority, according to Adler, are a constant motivating force in all behavior. He proposed that all human striving is motivated by feelings of inferiority. Individual development is the result of compensation, or one's efforts to overcome real or perceived inferiorities. People are driven by a desire to rise above their feelings of inferiority and reach to a higher level of development throughout their lives (Schultz & Schultz, 2016:111). However, if a person is unable to

compensate for normal inferiority feelings, it may develop into an inferiority

complex. Ewen describes an

inferiority complex as an exaggerated and pathological feelings of weakness, including the conviction that one is incapable of overcoming one's difficulties with appropriate effort (2003:94). People with an inferiority complex have low self-esteem, they feel helpless and unable to cope with life's challenges.

2.2.2. The Symptoms of Inferiority Complex

Symptoms are unconsciously arranged. People who do not want to confront their increased feelings of inferiority may develop symptoms like phobias, complaints, obsessions, and so on. They are unaware that they are causing these symptoms (Carlson et al, 2006:60). There are a lot of symptoms of a person who might have an inferiority complex. According to Adler, children who are neglected or rejected by their parents developed sense of worthlessness (Schultz & Schultz, 2016:125). The previous statement indicates that a sense of worthlessness is one of the symptoms of inferiority complex. The inferiority complex is frequently associated with the belief that a person has no special abilities. According to popular belief, some people are gifted while others are not. Such a point of view reflects an inferiority complex (Adler, 1929:227). To put it simply, individuals who experience sense of worthlessness may perceive themselves as unimportant, useless, or have nothing valuable to offer the society.

Another symptom of inferiority complex is a social maladjustment or inability to socialize. According to Adler, the inability of a person to socialize is caused by a lack of courage of the individual, which prevents the person from understanding the

necessity and utility of the social course (1929:220). Furthermore, a person who claims

to be uninterested in others is not truly honest. They may act as if they were uninterested in the world, but they cannot justify themselves. They are simply pretending to hide their lack of social adjustment (Adler, 1929:216). Children who are neglected also tend to develop feelings of anxiety (Schultz and Schultz, 2016:127). Feelings of anxiety are the negative beliefs a person might have about themselves, situations, and others. A person may either believe that they have been displaced in affection and that another will be preferred, or that a negative event has made them superstitiously afraid that the tragedy will reoccur (Adler, 1929:242).

2.2.3. The Causes of Inferiority Complex

According to Adler, there are three factors from childhood that can cause an inferiority complex: organ inferiority, spoiling or pampering, and neglect (Hjelle & Ziegler, 1981:79). Another pathological factor that may cause an inferiority complex is psychological birth order and family constellation. It is related because each child develops a distinct perspective on how they see things based on their position in the family. Aside from pathological factors, inferiority complex could also be the result of negative events that occurred at a much younger age. This event has made them superstitiously afraid that the tragedy will reoccur (Adler, 1929:242). However, Adler's concepts of individual psychology that will be of use to determine the inferiority complex in this research is parenting style, birth order, family constellation, and social interest.

2.2.3.1. Parenting Style

Adler stated that the child's first experience with cooperation is that of their parents, and if their cooperation is lacking, they cannot teach their children to cooperate (Ewen, 2003:95). Ideally, the mother will foster the child's potential for social interest. However, if the mother is rigid, unwilling to cooperate, or unreliable, the child will learn to resist rather than pursue social interest. There are two kinds of parenting style in individual psychology: pampering and neglecting. Pampering is considered a serious parental error because they lavish excessive attention, protection, and assistance on the child. Meanwhile, neglecting is the exact opposite because they fail to offer adequate care and attention, making the world appear cold and uncaring (Ewen, 2003:95-96). As a result, these children develop feelings of worthlessness, rage, and distrust for others. In fact, neglect is now widely recognized as a major form of child abuse (Schultz & Schultz, 2016:113).

2.2.3.2. Birth Order and Family Constellation

The Adlerian approach highlights the importance of sibling relationships and psychological birth order. Adler distinguished five psychological positions: oldest child, second child of only two, middle child, youngest child, and only child (Carlson et al, 2006:11). However, this section will only explain two positions in birth order, which are second-born and youngest child. The second-born child experiences pressure from the first-born, they are more ambitious, even revolutionary, want to see

a change in power, and have aspirations to be a racer (Ewen, 2003:98). Second-borns

and first

borns play a teeter-totter game in which one goes up, the other one goes down. If the oldest child excels in math, the second child usually ignores math and focuses on what the oldest child cannot do, such as sports (Carlson et al, 2006:52). As for the youngest child, they tend to be extremely ambitious when confronted with the presence of older rivals. Such children frequently taken an unusual path, such as becoming the only musician in family of lawyers (Ewen, 2003:98).

According to Adler, the personalities of the first child, middle child, last child are different because they are treated differently by their parents and siblings (Adler, 1927:108). Their difference can be seen in their position in the family or family constellation. According to Adlerian psychology, family constellation has a significant influence on the development of the child's life style because the family structure, as well as the family atmosphere, influences the child's fundamental behavior and outlook towards life (Carlson et al, 2006:243).

2.2.3.3. Social Interest

Adler believed that the first task people face in life is getting along with others. The ability of a person to get along with other people becomes a part of their lifestyle and influences how they deal with life's problems. He defined this as the concept of social interest, which is the inherent ability of an individual to collaborate with others to reach personal and social goals (Schultz & Schultz, 2016:116). However, a child's social interest is highly influenced by their early social

experiences. Parents are crucial in their child's social development. If the parents can

push their children's social

interest, they will learn and be capable of cooperating with society. On the other hand, parents who discourage their children may prevent them from developing a social interest (Feist & Feist, 2008:76-77).

2.2.4. The Effects of Inferiority Complex

Inferiority complex have a significant effect in a person's daily life. That person will be unable to function normally at home, work, or school. A child who displays inferiority or inadequacy will most likely to respond passively or fails to respond to whatever is done, and there is no improvement (Carlson et al, 2006:15). It can develop into depression when an unfavorable situation arises, such as being overshadowed by a more agreeable sibling. A person suffering from depression has typically lost interest in society. (Adler, 1929:89-90). Depression can also be depicted as a lack of desire to engage in a useful activity (Adler, 1929:97). Guilt feelings may also arise when the self-concept clashes with ethical beliefs (Carlson et al, 2006:59). Guilt feelings, on the other hand, can exacerbate a person's inability to stand up for themselves.

2.3. Methods of Research

In writing this thesis, the writer uses two kinds of methods to conduct the research, which are method of data collection and research approach.

2.3.1. Method of Data Collection

In this research thesis, the writer is using a library research method for the data collection. Library research requires identifying and obtaining sources that

contain factual information or an expert's opinion (George, 2008:6). The data will be

collected

from reliable sources such as books, articles, and journals. George divides the sources into two kinds, which are primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources are obtained first-hand, while secondary sources are based on human interpretation (2008:56). The film script of *The Edge of Seventeen* will be used as the primary data. Sources from internet such as books, articles, and journals will be used as the secondary data.

2.3.2. Research Approach

The writer applies two approaches in order to analyze the object of the study. As for the first approach, the writer uses contextual approach to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the film. According to Beard, using context in a study involves the surroundings that influence both the writer's creation and the reader's response. Context also refers to what happens with the text, instead of what is inside the text (Beard, 2001:6). This approach is applied to examine the intrinsic aspects, such as character, conflict, and setting, as well as the extrinsic aspects.

As for the second approach, the writer uses psychological approach. Based on the background of the study that reveals psychological phenomena in *The Edge of Seventeen,* the most appropriate approach to use in this study is a psychological approach. Beard defines psychological approach as the study of the human mind and how it affects behavior in certain contexts (2001:160). According to Rohrberger, the psychological approach employs psychological theories to describe the personality of the story's character. Each character's attitude and behavior can be linked to human

psychology (1971:13). The writer uses psychological approach for the extrinsic elements by using the concept of inferiority complex in Alfred Adler's individual psychology.