



**THE IDENTITY CRISIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER
IN DAVID YOON'S *FRANKLY IN LOVE***

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree
in English Department Faculty of Humanities
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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 18th March 2021

Rizki Asih

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“In the social jungle of human existence, there is no feeling of being alive without a sense of identity.”

Erik Erikson

And He has made me blessed wherever I am.

Quran 19:31

*This thesis is dedicated to
My beloved family and everyone
who have supported and helped me to accomplish this thesis.*

**THE IDENTITY CRISIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER
IN *FRANKLY IN LOVE* BY DAVID YOON**

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Semarang, 18th March 2021

Rizki Asih

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ABSTRACT

Identity crisis has been the quintessential issue among the children of immigrants. That is due to the clashing values that give the psychological effect on the children of immigrants. *Frankly in Love* tells about the life of Frank Li who experiences identity crisis due to living between two different cultures. Frank Li's parents' expectation to live up within their Korean cultural standard gives a psychological damage to his self-image as he feels more engaged in his teenager's life within the American society. The aim of this study is to analyze the identity crisis of Frank Li as the main character in the novel entitled *Frankly in Love* by David Yoon. The analysis is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on the intrinsic elements which include character, setting, and conflict. The second part focuses on the extrinsic elements, namely personal identity, social identity, and identity crisis. The methods are library research and social psychology approach. The results of this study reveal Frank Li's perception towards American physical appearance, his different values toward Korean and American culture, and the dilemma of his sense of belonging. Frank Li's personal and social identity also plays important parts on his identity crisis phenomena.

Keywords: *main character, identity crisis, personal identity, social identity, social psychology approach*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Immigration in America, in any way, brings the psychological effect for the immigrants. The Americans do not make the immigrants feel included in their national in-group (Allport: 1954:35). National in-group membership refers to the same essential significance among the people in the society. As a result, immigrants have to adjust to the American's national in group in order to feel secure and included. It is not easy for each immigrant to assimilate to the American culture because most of them still embrace the traditional values of their home country. To the immigrants, American culture refers to the modern values which are the opposite of the traditional values.

Traditional values refer to “collectivism, submissive self-restriction, preservation of traditional practices, protection, and stability”. On the other hand, modern values are the “expressions of individualism and personal gratification” (Maercker et al, 2009:220). These opposite values also affect them in the matter of sense of belonging.

The children of immigrants in the age of adolescence are likely to go through more challenging way when they lose their sense belonging. According to Kruzykowski (2007:12), immigrant adolescents are difficult to define themselves as

individuals because they are also faced with many cultural differences. Hence, they always caught themselves between two immensely different worlds and they neither feel at ease (Lee and Zhou, 2004:14). Even though the children of immigrants are easier to fit in the new culture, they may be trapped in identity confusion when they are in the process of seeking their identity. This situation causes them to experience an identity crisis. It is the moment in which the individuals undergo the uncertainty phase in their life that leads to having identity confusion about their existence in the present as well as in the future (Erikson, 1968:17).

The identity crisis issue is found not only in reality but also in a literary work. The example is a novel that is written by David Yoon which beautifully depicts the story of an immigrant child who experiences an identity crisis. The title of the novel is *Frankly in Love* which is published in 2019. The novel gives an insight about the life of Frank Li, a Korean-American senior year high school student who has problem defining his true identity. Frank Li is exposed to be the child of the Korean immigrant parents who was born and grown up in Southern California. Hence, he is attached with his Korean-American identity which is also known as hyphenated identity¹. Frank Li has to deal with two different cultures which are Korean and American culture. His parents expect him to live up to the Korean traditional values even though he lives in America. However, Frank Li totally engages in the life of the modern values of the American culture. In the quest of finding his true identity while

¹ Hyphenated identity refers to a person who has a dual identity, thus evoking an impression that a person is categorized as belonging to more than one sociocultural group (Oxford Reference, 2021)

measuring up to both Korean and American culture, Frank Li finds himself dealing with identity crisis. In the end, he has to decide which cultural values he seems to fit in.

The writer tries to prove that there are many factors that play significant role in going through an identity crisis for the main character. The factors include the identity crisis and types of identity in terms of social and personal identity. The theory that is used in this study is social psychology which covers the connection between an individual and the social environment. This thesis will focus on the main character of the novel which is Frank Li by analyzing the problems of his identity crisis as well as the types of identity as parts of the identity crisis topic.

1.2 Research Problems

1. What are the intrinsic elements of the identity crisis analysis of the main character in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*?
2. What are the factors that influence the main character on going through the identity crisis in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To explain the intrinsic elements of the identity crisis analysis of the main character in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*
2. To analyze the factors that influence the main character on going through his identity crisis that is depicted in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*

1.4 Previous Studies

Since this novel is considered new and as of the time this study is being conducted by the writer, this novel has not been conducted by other researchers before. Hence, the writer discovered some previous studies that have the relation to the topic that is discussed in this novel.

The first study is “Identity Crisis Resulting from the Conflicts of Tribal Tradition and American Tradition in Alice Walker’s *Possessing the Secret of Joy*” by Indriana Christy Purwandari in 2017 (Undergraduate Thesis, Sanata Dharma University) which focuses on the identity crisis as the result of hybridity between American culture and African culture.

The second study is “Identity Crisis of Benjamin Button in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*” by Astri Rahayu Aghsari in 2017 (Journal Article, State University of Surabaya) which reveals the identity crisis that is experienced by the character of Benjamin Button due to having the problems of aging backwards.

The third study is “Identity Crisis of the Second Generation of Asian-Indian Americans as Reflected in Lahiri’s *The Namesake*” by Anestiya Fiddin Rosyada in 2013 (Undergraduate Thesis, Yogyakarta State University) which focuses on the identity crisis that happens to the life of Gogol Ganguli as the second generation of Asian-Indian Americans.

The fourth study is “Identity Crisis in Chinua Achebe’s *Arrow of God*” by Nurlatifah in 2009 (Undergraduate Thesis, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati) that discusses the identity crisis of Nigerian people in dealing with British colonialism which is based on the theory of post-colonialism.

The fifth study is entitled “A crisis of Identity? The national religious and political identifications of young Protestant women in Northern Ireland” by Helên Rummelhoff in 2017 (Graduate thesis, University of Oslo) which discusses the identity crisis of young Protestant in Northern Ireland.

The sixth study is “Identity Crisis Seen in Pecola’s Characteristics in *Morrison’s The Bluest Eye*” by Susan Pasca Lina in 2010 (Undergraduate Thesis, Sanata Dharma University) which focuses on the cause of identity crisis due to having the obsession with the blue eyes and physical appearance like the White people.

The seventh study is an article entitled “Self-Identity Crisis in Trisha’s Ashley’s *Every Woman for Herself*” by Andi Jaihutan Silitonga and Ismaniar Ambarita in 2020 (Journal Article, University of Darma Agung Medan) which reveals the causes of the identity crisis of the main character and how the character overcomes her identity crisis issue.

The eighth study is an article entitled “An Analysis of Identity Crisis of Osborne’s character in *Look Back in Anger* (1956)” by Falak Naz and Anila Jamil in

2015 (Journal Article, British Journal of English Linguistics) which discusses the identity crisis in Osborne's character Jimmy Porter in "Look Back in Anger" (1956).

The ninth study is "Identity Status in Barry Jenkin's Movie *Moonlight*" by Rahmatiah in 2017 (Undergraduate Thesis, Alauddin State Islamic University Makassar) which discusses the identity status of the main character that is portrayed in the movie "Moonlight".

The tenth study is "Identity Crisis: A Psychosocial Study of the Main Character's Identity in Patrick Süskind's Novel *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer* by Dwi Meilandari in 2017 (Other Thesis, Universitas Sebelas Maret) which focuses on the discovery of the role of society which influences Grenouille's, the main character, process of growing, and the impact it gives on his personality.

Based on the ten previous studies that have been conducted by other writers, it can be learned that identity crisis is their main discussion of the study. However, they use different objects of study and problems of identity crisis on their analysis. In order to differentiate the analysis from the previous studies, the writer focuses on the character of Frank Li as the main character in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*, who experiences an identity crisis due to living between two different worlds for being the child of Korean immigrant parents. The analysis highlights the factors that play important roles for the character in going through his identity crisis problem.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is to analyze personal identity, social identity and identity crisis phenomena that happen to Frank Li as a Korean-American senior year high school student who lives in Southern California. The limitation of the identity crisis issue in the study includes the factors that influence the main character on going through his identity crisis problem.

1.6 Writing Organization

This research study is divided into four chapters. They are introduction, theory and method, data and analysis, and conclusion. Chapter 1 includes background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, and writing organization. Chapter 1 focuses on the reason why the writer conducts the research study and reveals the writer's purpose of writing the study.

Chapter 2 includes all aspects of the theoretical framework that support the study. The writer writes down the theories that are included in both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the study. The research method that is used in this study is library research. The research approach uses social psychology approach.

Chapter 3 includes the analysis of intrinsic elements such as the main character, settings analysis which includes the setting of time, place, and social environment, and conflicts analysis which focus on the internal and external conflicts. The discussions of the extrinsic elements are Korean culture and values, American

culture and values, personal identity, social identity, and identity crisis as the main topic of the discussion.

Chapter 4 is conclusion. This chapter discusses the conclusion as the final result of the study. In this chapter, the writer is able to conclude the findings that are based on the purpose, theories and methods used, and the discussions of the study.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Intrinsic Elements

2.1.1 Character

According to Gill (1995:127), character is a person that is presented in a literary work. Character in the literary work is built up by the author with a particular personality. Character's personalities consist of name, appearance, dialogue, and idea. The way a character is shaped is based on what it has been made by the author.

2.1.1.1 Main Character

Main character is also the most talked-about whether as the perpetrator or as the one who is affected by the incident (Nurgiyantoro, 2005:176-177). It means the existence of the main character is important as the conflict of the story always involves the role of the main character.

2.1.2 Conflicts

According to Robbins (2005:494), conflict happens when there is a negative situation that receives the attention of the first party and that person is negatively affected. Then, Holman (1985:98) mentions that conflicts are divided into four parts, namely (1) the conflict between character and nature, (2) the conflict between character and another character, (3) the conflict between character and society, and (4) the conflict between character and his conscience. The conflict between character and his

conscience can be called as an internal conflict, and the other conflicts are categorized as external conflicts.

2.1.3 Settings

Holman (1985:413) states there are four components that can build settings in a literary work, namely (1) geographical locations such as the landscape, topography of the location, or the particular parts inside the room, (2) the occupation of the characters, (3) the period of time of when the story occurs, (4) the conditions that surround the character, namely social, moral, customs, etc.

2.2 Extrinsic Elements

2.2.1 Korean Culture and Values

Every aspect of Korean culture and values is influenced by Confucianism, such as using honorifics, ancestral worship, and social conventions (Jackson, 2017:2). Moreover, children are expected to show devotion, respect, and obedience to their parents, and the nature of one's relationship with the members of the same in-group defines one's identity (Kim et al, 2006:155-156).

2.2.2 American Culture and Values

According to Fan & Wang (2013:349) in citing of Jingqiong Zhou, American values represent "individual freedom, self-reliance, equality, competition, material wealth, and hard work". Even though American culture changes over the time, there are some values that still continue to be a part of the American culture. These cultural values include honesty, equality, and self-reliance (Spindler & Spindler, 1990:26-32).

2.2.3 Personal Identity

Personal identity refers to the self-identification of an individual. Personal identity, which refers to the personal self “I”, is the awareness of individuals that they are different from other people (Tajfel, 1972:31). According to Vignoles et al (2011: 3), personal identity refers to the ability of individuals to define themselves from every aspect of life.

2.2.4 Social Identity

Personal identity refers to a sense of belonging of individuals in a personal context, social identity which uses the social self as “we” is the self-recognition of individuals which is accompanied by some emotional and valuable feelings in which they acquire memberships in a certain group of society (Tajfel, 1972:31).

2.2.5 Identity Crisis

Identity crisis is a term that is coined by the German psychologist named Erik Erikson. Erikson states that,

“Identity crisis occurs in that period of the life cycle when each youth must forge for himself some central perspective or direction, some working unity, out of the effective remnants of his childhood and the hopes of anticipated adulthood.” (1962:14)

In that case, Erikson (1968:17) mentions that identity crisis happens to the age of adolescence and young adulthood. It is a crucial phase because individual must achieve their committed identity. During the process of identity crisis, the feeling of sense of belonging is always involved in order to reach into a particular stage of

identity development. Erikson further argues that identity crisis occurs to severely conflicted young people whose sense of confusion is based on the “war” within them (1968:17). Even though the impact of experiencing identity crisis is psychologically disturbed for young people, it can give them hope of passing the crisis itself rather than going further into a fatalistic diagnosis.

2.3 Method of Research

2.3.1 Research Approach

Based on the background of the study that reveals personal identity, social identity, and identity crisis phenomena, the writer uses social psychology approach. The main point of social psychology approach is that this approach stresses the interconnection between individual and society. According to Allport (1954:5), social psychology is the scientific investigation of how we think, feel, and behave toward other people around us is controlled by the presence of those people. It means the presence of other people in the society navigates our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Hence, in a better understanding, social psychology approach seeks the relation between social environment and human’s behavior. It therefore looks at how the social environment can affect human’s behavior and how they can shape their attitude in accordance with the surrounding environment.

2.3.2 Method of Data Collection

The writer uses library research in writing this thesis. According to Zed (2003:3), library research is a set of activities that are related to the library data collection methods, reading and taking notes and processing the materials of the research.

In a library research, there are two sources that are used, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. According to Klarer (1999:13), the primary data sources are the basic texts of the literary work such as drama, poetry, and fiction. The primary data source in this research is the novel entitled “Frankly in Love” by David Yoon, while the secondary data sources are all kind of texts that are published essentially in scholarly journals such as journals, articles, internet sources, books, and reviews or notes from other researchers.

CHAPTER 3

PERSONAL IDENTITY, SOCIAL IDENTITY AND IDENTITY CRISIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN DAVID YOON'S *FRANKLY IN LOVE*

3.1 Intrinsic elements

3.1.1 Character

3.1.1.1 Main Character

3.1.1.1.1 Characterization of Frank Li

As the main character, Frank Li's existence plays an important role in the story. The story is also narrated from Frank Li's point of view. Hence, it strengthens the fact that his involvement in the story shapes the conflict in the story as well. Frank Li is a 16-year-old and Korean-American senior year high school student in Playa Mesa, Southern California. He was born and grown up in Southern California to the Korean immigrant parents. Frank Li claims that he has two names. His explanation about his names can be learned in the following statement. "*Frank is my American name, meaning it's my name-name. My second name is Sung-Min Li, and it's my Korean name.*" (2019: 00).

From the previous statement, it can be learned that Frank Li clarifies that his real name is Frank while his Korean name refers to his second name. He regards his Korean name as his second name because he claims that no one calls him by his

Korean name as he states “*Nobody calls me Sung-Min, not even Mom-n-Dad. They just call me Frank.*” (2019: 00).

3.1.1.1.2 Frank Li’s Personal Characteristics

Firstly, Frank Li’s personal characteristics can be learned from how he shows different sides of him both inside and outside of school. Inside of school, he focuses on his study because his goal is to achieve a high SAT² score in order to get into a good college. It is also a crucial matter for Frank Li because his intention to get a high SAT score is to “*gain the attention of The Harvard, which is the Number One Top School in the Whole of United States, according to Mom-n-Dad.*” (2019:2). It can be learned that his parents have the expectation of him to excel in the academics so that he can be noticed by a good college such as Harvard in which it refers to his parents’ opinion. Frank Li also surrounds himself with the smart students who take the same classes as Frank Li. He describes his smart friends in school as “*sober kids, all in the same Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and therefore do not get invited to parties and their concomitant opportunities to imbibe*” (2019:15).

In describing his smart friends, Frank Li uses the words as “sober kids”, “do not get invited to parties”, and “concomitant opportunities” which can also be learned that his friends have serious attitude. He also stresses the Advanced Placement (AP) classes which are probably related to the specific classes in his school. Hence, it can be learned that his group of friends are academics-oriented people who do not really

² SAT stands for Scholastic Aptitude Test. It is an entrance exam that is used by most colleges and universities in America for admissions decisions (The Princeton Review, 2021).

have social life outside of school as the description words that he uses to refer his friends are the opposite of the wider context of social life.

Outside of school, he refers himself as a nerd who has specific interests. Considering himself as a nerd, Frank Li argues that “*like most nerds, Q and I spend time watching obscure movies, playing video games, deconstructing the various absurdities of reality, and so on.*” (2019:4). From the previous statement, it can be seen that Frank Li categorizes himself as a nerd because of his interests such as watching movies and playing video games in which he also mentions that he likes spending time with his friend named Q as well as indulging in his own interests with him.

Secondly, Frank Li is a helpful son to his parents. He feels responsible for taking care of his parents. He helps his parents in looking after his parents’ store whose name is The Store. Frank Li mentions that he is “*at The Store only one day a week, on Sundays, and only to work the register- no lifting, sorting, cleaning, tagging, or dealing with vendors.*” (2019:8). It can be learned that Frank Li does not do work heavy at The Store because he does not seem to drain his energy by looking after The Store in relation to the workloads that he mentions. Frank Li also argues that looking after The Store is his mother’s idea of making him close with his father before he heads to college.

Lastly, Frank Li is an open-minded person. His personal trait of being an open-minded person can be learned from how strong he is against his racist parents as

he says, “*our parents are racist. I wish things were different*” (2019:14). It can be shown from the previous statement that Frank Li expresses his hope for something different to happen upon dealing with his racist parents. On the other side, it also annoys him whenever his parents make up any racist comments that are intended to look down on other races. One example is when Frank Li’s father utters a racist comment, such as “*Black people always no money they having. Always doing crime, gang, whatever. Make too many baby. That’s black people.*” (2019:18). Hence, Frank Li will always find a way to stop his parents from making racist comments, such as “*I used to say. You’re aware that Korea is this tiny country, and the world is full of people you know little about, right?*” (2019:17). It can be learned that Frank Li is annoyed by his parents whenever they criticize other races. It also indicates that Frank Li’s parents are ignorant about the existence of other people in the world. However, Frank Li’s openness has led him to many problems because he has the opposite perspectives from his parents. He also has to deal with the differences between two vastly different worlds which are Korean and American culture.

3.1.2 Settings

3.1.2.1 Setting of Place

3.1.2.1.1 Playa Mesa

David Yoon’s *Frankly in Love* is set in Playa Mesa, Southern California. Playa Mesa is described as the area of White people, as Frank Li states “*Playa Mesa is in white*” (2019:15). It means Playa Mesa is occupied by the majority of White people. It can

also be learned that Frank Li's family is considered to be one of the minorities in Playa Mesa due to their ethnical difference from that of White.

3.2.1.1.2 The Store

Another place that is considered important for the story is The Store which is Frank Li's parents' small store. The Store exposes the life of the American society in Southern California in accordance with the story. Moreover, The Store is also the actual representation of Frank Li's family's life in America. Frank Li describes the store as,

“An hour-long drive from the dystopian perfection of my suburban home of Playa Mesa. It's in a poor, sun-crumbled part of Southern California largely populated by Mexican- and African-Americans. A world away.” (2019:7).

It can be seen that The Store examines the major population in the area which refers to the Mexican and African-Americans. It also shows that Frank Li's family belongs to the minority group as they are the immigrants from Korea. For the most part, The Store as the setting of place plays an important role in showing the diversity of the American society.

3.1.2.2 Setting of Time

The setting of time is mostly set in 2019. In the beginning of the story, Frank Li mentions about starting his senior year of high school as he says, “*for senior year is begun.*” (2019:1). It is also revealed that Frank Li and his friends take the SAT test in December 2019 as it is stated in the following, “*Thank you for taking the SAT on December 1, 2019!*” (2019:175).

3.1.2.2.1 The Technological Advancement in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*

According to the story, 2019 reflects the time in which technological advancement is highly represented. It can be seen from how often Frank Li plays the advanced video games with his friends. He also engages in music production in that he will carry along his recording equipment which is called the *Tascam* in which he describes as “*a sweet little device no bigger than a TV remote,*” (2019:5)

Technological advancement also represents the world of social media that is exposed in the story. The social media that is exposed is called *snapstory*. Frank Li describes *snapstory* as, “*an app where you can share photos.* (2019:100). *Snapstory* also displays the life of the society that is embedded in everyone's life style. Frank Li further argues that,

“Everyone is doing the Snapstory dance: swing the phone up, pose for the photo, then chimp around the screen hunting for the perfect emoji, stickers, and filters to post with. (2019:102).”

It can be learned that the people enjoy using the *snapstory* as a platform of showing off their lives through pictures or videos. Frank Li further argues that people use *snapstory* as “*corporate surveillance machine that cranks out nonstop soul-crushing envy as a side bonus.*” (2019:100). It can also be implied that the social media that is presented in the story also brings side impact to the society. For the most part, the setting of time reveals the modernity of American society among.

3.1.2.3 Social Setting

3.1.2.3.2 Gathering

The social environment that is most-talked about in the story is the relationship within the Korean immigrants who come to America at about the same time. The Korean community that is presented in the story has a social group called the Gathering. Frank Li argues that Gathering consists of “*families, which sounds like a mafia thing but really is just Mom-n-Dad’s friends getting together for a rotating house dinner.*” (2019:9). It can be learned that Gathering is a get-together within the Korean community of Frank Li’s parents’ friends, The Gathering also shows the solidarity among the group of Korean immigrants who still keep in touch with each other. Their intention is to keep the Korean traditions alive. The representation of the Gathering is shown on the statement below:

“They cherry-picked what they wanted from American culture, but for the most part they built this little Korean bubble to live in. They watch nothing but Korean shows, do business with nothing but Korean people, hang out with nothing but Korean friends.” (2019: 51)

The previous statement explains that the relationship among the people in the Gathering is very strong as they always keep in touch with the people within their bubble; which are Korean people. It also clarifies that the people of Gathering take the opportunity that is presented in American culture, but they have the intention to create their own world within the diversity of American culture.

The Gathering also exposes the Korean immigrants’ lives who make their own fortune in America by managing their own business to support their own

families, such as “*run an office furniture rental service (like Joy’s parents), a dry cleaner (Ella’s), a beauty supply (Andrew’s), a tourist gift shop (John’s), or a grocery store (mine).*” (2019:82). The previous statement reveals that the Korean family within the Gathering have different jobs upon supporting their lives in America.

3.1.2.3.3 Frank Li’s Family Belongs to a Middle Class Family

Frank Li’s parents own a small grocery store that is called The Store. It can also be learned that Frank Li’s family belongs to a middle-class family. It means Frank Li’s family is categorized within the middle social hierarchy. Although it is not specifically mentioned in the story, it can be implied that by owning a small store is also an indication that Frank Li’s family is able to support their lives in America. It is also not mentioned in the story that Frank Li’s family is going through economic hardship. Instead, Frank Li’s family reliance on The Store reveals their dedication to working hard.

Frank Li mentions that his parents work at The store every day “*from morning to evening on weekends, holidays, New Year’s Day, 365 days out of every year without a single vacation for as long as me and Hanna have been alive*” (2019:7). It can be learned that that his parents’ struggle for never having a day off at work is to show that they are very dedicated to working.

3.1.3 Conflict

3.1.3.1 Frank Li's Internal Conflict

3.1.3.1.1 The Conflict Between Frank Li and His Conscience

This conflict is referred to Frank Li and his own conscience. As the main character, the exploration of his mind is a crucial thing in analyzing the problem that will be discussed in the study. Hence, the debate that is going through his mind can create a conflict. The conflict between Frank Li and his conscience happens after he falls in love with his first love that turns out to be a White girl named Brit Means. It is a big deal for Frank Li because dating a non-Korean girl is against his parents' will. Before falling in Love with Brit Means, Frank Li is just a teenage who enjoys his life being a high school student who focuses on studying to get into a good college. However, after dating Brit Means, he seems to feel hard about himself. He also reflects on his sister's problem for being disowned by his parents due to marrying a Black man. Frank Li argues that his sister does a wrong thing by falling love and the problem is that she falls in love with a Black man. It is stated in the following, "*But when it's with a black boy, it's big enough to cancel out everything she did right her whole life.*" (2019:3). Thus, Frank Li starts feeling concerned about everything in his life, because he is always hunted by the thoughts of having to date Korean women.

The major conflict that actually happens is that he is torn between his parents and himself. A part of him tells that he has to respect his parents and another part of him wants him to do what his conscience tells him. These complicated feelings make

him feel uneasy about the problem that sets his heart apart from his first love. The problem must be about his identity that doesn't match Brit Means in any way. He says "*I realize this gap is my problem. Brit does not have this gap. It is easier for her to love- simpler, less complicated. My love is slightly misshapen. My love is nonstandard. It requires workarounds.*" (2019:106). It can be seen that Frank Li feels burdened with the fact that he and Brit come from different worlds. He feels like there is a space that separates each other. Frank Li acknowledges his gap is typically in a way that it is considered undesirable for everyone's heart who wants to be in love. His desperate love makes him say, "*We all just want to love who we want to love.*" (2019:87)

3.1.3.2 Frank Li's External Conflict

3.1.3.2.1 The Conflict Between Frank Li and His Parents

This conflict implies for Frank Li and another character in the story. This character is revealed to be his parents. The conflict between him and his parents is due to his parents' high expectation of him. He is ordered to go after the traditional Korean values. The conflict between him and his parents happens after his parents set up a standard rule for him to date a Korean girl only. It means Frank Li has to deal with his parents' conservative principles.

At first, his mother says, "*You marry Korean girl,*" (2019:19). Her mother's argument is to make everything easier for his Korean identity. However, it raises a conflict for Frank Li because he thinks that finding love should not be measured by

looking at the racial identity. Frank Li also feels that his parents' racist behavior goes beyond when they disown Hanna for marrying a Black person. Upon realizing that he doesn't want to be the next disowned child, Frank Li feels a lot of pressure within himself, especially when he falls in love with a White girl. He has a lot of anxiety over his parents' expectation, "*because I was paranoid about our parents trying to micro-manage us. Because that's what old-skool Korean parents do when families, you know, merge*" (2019:171). It can be learned that Frank Li is afraid of his parents trying to control his life in accordance with their Korean traditional values.

The conflict between him and his parents continues when he has to date his first love in secret. This is due to avoiding being caught by his parents. Frank Li really knows for a fact that he has to honor his parents and he knows the consequences of what he does. Hence, Frank Li proposes a fake-dating with Joy Song in order to please his parents' expectation of dating a Korean girl. As a Korean-American girl, Joy Song also goes through the similar situation as Frank Li in terms of dating someone that has to be Korean. Frank Li argues,

"Say me and Joy had been born in Korea. We'd be Korean. We'd belong to a tribe. But that doesn't necessarily mean we'd belong with each other. Because there are tribes within tribes, all separated by gaps everywhere." (2019:259).

It can be implied that both Frank Li and Joy Song are going through such emotional feelings because they are expected to be in relationship with Korean people. Even though the fake-dating scheme that he does with Joy Song goes well, Frank Li feels uncomfortable for doing a thing behind his parents' backs. He is

burdened by the fact that he has to hide something important within his life from the important people in his life.

3.2 The Extrinsic elements of David Yoon's *Frankly In Love*

3.2.1 Personal Identity

3.2.1.1 Frank Li as a Korean

At first, Frank Li is not denial upon his Korean identity because he acknowledges the history of his parents coming to America. He states about his parents' coming to America, "*Once upon a time, they left Korea. They came here. They had kids*" (2019:51). He also gets to experience most of the Korean culture from his parents. For example, he likes and eats Korean food at home, because his mother always cooks Korean food for the family. He also acquires Korean name which is Sung Min Li even though nobody calls him by his Korean name, not even his parents call him by that name.

3.2.1.1.1 Frank Li's Lack of Korean Language Skill

Being a Korean himself does not mean he has to be fluent in the language. Otherwise, Frank Li is struggling with speaking Korean. He reveals that he cannot speak Korean well. He might understand and be familiar with some of Korean words, but for the most part he claims that he cannot speak Korean. This is due to his parents never speaking Korean with him. They speak English with each other on a daily basis even though his parents speak their broken English. Frank Li indicates, "*Dad's English isn't great and my Korean is almost nonexistent*" (2019:9).

Frank Li also speaks English with his friends. Hence, his Korean has never gotten better. It can also be concluded that English is his native language, while Korean is his second language. His lacking ability of speaking Korean also attracts the attention by the people from the Gathering. When he and his parents attend the Gathering, Frank Li says “*Mom-n-Dad force me to say hi in Korean, and when I do everyone makes a big deal out of it.*” (2019:48). It can be learned that his Korean is something to fuss about even though he tries hard to keep up with the language.

3.2.1.1.2 Frank Li’s Pressure on Being a Korean

Being a Korean also makes a part of Frank Li’s life is surrounded by the pressure and a high expectation of the perspective of Korean values. He feels like he is always expected to be the example of a Korean person in general whereas in fact, he just feels burdened to do so. The following statement shows that Frank Li is desperate of his Korean identity, “*I wish Korean could be whatever I wanted it to be.*” (2019: 131). It can be learned that being a Korean for Frank Li is something that forces him to be someone else. He feels like being a Korean puts him into unprecedented pressure because he cannot be himself. He then states that, “*Korean’s like the opposite. Korean’s just the one thing, and nothing else.*” (2019:131).

3.2.1.2 Frank Li as a Korean-American

As a Korean-American, Frank Li is labeled as *kyopo*. “*Kyopo is what they call a Korean person living abroad.*” (2019:180). Among the Korean communities, Frank Li is called as *kyopo*, but in his world, he describes himself as a Korean-American

instead. In his idea, being a Korean-American means he has the privilege to behave without constraint. That is because he is not tied to either Korean or American culture, but the two cultures are merged into one which results in his hyphenated identity. It is supported by Frank Li's following argumentation, "*Because then I could just be whoever I wanted, and no one would be around to judge me.*" (2019:187). It shows that Frank Li wants to have the freedom of doing something without being criticized by the others. Thus, it can be implied that Frank Li may perceive that his Korean-American identity is something that differentiates him with the other Koreans or Americans.

3.2.2 Social Identity

3.2.2.1 Frank Li as a Member of the Limbo

Frank Li is able to acquire his sense of belonging in his social environment by being a part of the Limbos. The Limbos come from the Gathering. Among the group of the Gathering, they have their children who happen to be at the same age as Frank Li. They call themselves as the Limbos. Their argument about the Limbos is they experience the same thing about being the children of Korean immigrants. They realize of the boundaries in their lives. They also have to make a balance between their parents' traditional values and their lives under the nurture of Southern California society. Frank Li describes his time and relationship with the Limbos as "*to wait out time in between worlds.*" (2019:11). It can be seen that the people within

the Limbo know how it feels to be caught up between two different worlds. Hence, it is easier for them to understand each other.

The Limbos is also the representation of their parents' mentality and high expectation towards their children. They will compare their children to one another in the academic field. "*We are talked and talked about, like minor celebrities. So-and-so made academic pentathlon team captain. So-and-so got valedictorian.*" (2019:10). It can be learned that the parents of the Limbos value the academic achievement as the best predictor of being succeed in life. However, the influence of the parents on their children can bring an impact on their life development. It is supported with this statement: "*The roomful of Limbos suddenly becomes the most precious of life's achievements: children who will never want for anything, who speak native English, who will go to the best schools in the world.*" (2019:82). It also clarifies that the people of the Limbos feel the burden about being shaped by what their parents' expectation towards them.

Frank Li also argues that the Limbos give him the pictorial of his exploration mind. It is shown in the following statement, "*I start to get that classic Limbo feeling that I get whenever I'm surrounded by this much Korean-ness: that I am a failure at being Korean, and not doing so great at being American.*" (2019:156). From the previous passage, it indicates that Frank Li acquires the Limbo's mentality whenever he fits in with the Korean culture. That is because the Limbo has the strong

association with Korean culture. However, this Limbo feeling somehow brings him the setback about his identity.

3.2.3 Identity Crisis

3.2.3.1 Frank Li's Identity Crisis Towards His Perception of American Physical Appearance

The rising of Frank Li's identity crisis problem begins with his own perception towards the physical appearance of American people. He instills the idea that being American means to be White. This is also driven by the fact that he acquires a hyphenated identity within the American society. The thing is his hyphenated identity is something that is uncommon within the American society. It also differentiates him from the White people. Hence, Frank Li is mindful about his hyphenated identity because he is always seen as a minority due to him being an immigrant child. His arguments are,

“White people can describe themselves with just American. Only when pressed do they go into their ethnic heritage. Doesn't seem fair that I have to forever explain my origin story with that silent hyphen, whereas white people don't.” (2019:90).

The previous statement clarifies that Frank Li feels unfair with the perception of being American in the eyes of general perspective as well as in his own perspective. He argues that in order to be considered an American, a person has to be White. In this matter, he is aware that he does not belong to White and, therefore, he is not an American. He also mentions that White people have the privilege of not having to explain their identity in terms of ethnic heritage in that it also relates to

their original identity. However, this may be a different case for Frank Li because he feels that his hyphenated identity is something that needs more explanation. This is what bothers him, because he cannot just introduce his name with a silent hyphen in front of the general audience in America. Instead, he has to decipher what is behind the silent hyphen in his name.

On the other side, the feeling of unfairness somehow leads him into developing his identity through the acknowledging the existence of his hyphenated identity. In this matter, he rather sees his hyphenated identity in a different way. It is supported with the following statement:

“When Mom-n-Dad say *American*, they mean *white*. When they refer to themselves- or me- they say *hanguksaram*, or *Korean*. I never call myself just *Korean*. I call myself *Korean-American*, always leading first with *Korean* or *Asian*, then the silent hyphen, then ending with *American*. Never just *American*.” (2019:90)

Based on the statement above, it turns out that his parents also have the same perception about the physical appearance of the American people. They perceive that Americans are always equated with being White. Meanwhile, his parents still refer him as a Korean because he is the child of the Korean parents. These perceptions make Frank Li acknowledge the existence of his hyphenated identity even though he still feels uncomfortable for having the need to explain about his identity. However, he realizes that the importance of the silent identity that is attached with his name will make a justice to the average Americans. In this phase, Frank Li tries to understand his identity by combining the two worlds into one identity.

3.2.3.1.1 Frank Li's Insecurity About His Hyphenated Identity

Frank Li's perception that White people are equated with being American does not simply end with him relating his hyphenated identity to that of being American. Instead, this fact makes him feel insecure about himself. His insecurity overwhelms him when he finds out that he falls in love with Brit Means who is a White girl. Even though falling in love with her is a pure feeling that grows inside his heart, he realizes that he and Brit are different due to the racial differences. However, he states that, "*Brit Means refuses to call herself white, and uses European-American instead. Because Brit is wise and aware.*" (2019:90). The previous statement indicates that Frank Li calls Brit Means as wise and aware girl because Brit Means' perception towards her physical appearance just resonates with Frank Li's actual feeling. Frank Li seems annoyed with the idea of being White itself instead of having to acknowledge that White belongs to the European-American which also has a hyphenated identity. In that way, he feels much fair with that kind of perception because his hyphenated identity as a Korean-American makes him realize that everyone in America is just the same.

Frank Li is ingrained in his insecurity about measuring up his the standard of being an American with his hyphenated identity. His lack of confidence will always stay within his life because of that perception that is already attached within his mind, he continues that Brit Means "*may call herself European-American, but to most of the world she's just white. As a member of the majority, she belongs everywhere. As the*

product of a long, mixed-up heritage, she belongs nowhere.” (2019: 93). Despite realizing that White people actually belong to the hyphenated identity as well, Frank Li’s insecurity is still very much ingrained in his life. He still perceives that the hyphenated identity is useless for White people because they seem obvious to the society that they are the majority in America. On the other hand, his hyphenated identity is just a different matter because it belongs to the minority. By the previous statement, Frank Li also indicates that the majority has the privilege of belonging everywhere, which is also something that he has been longing to the quest of his identity.

3.2.3.2 Frank Li’s Identity Crisis Towards His Different Values of American and Korean Culture

Frank Li’s identity crisis problem continues with him constantly trying to fit in between two different cultures which are Korean and American culture. In the context of Korean and American values, Frank Li and his parents have a clash on embracing the differences. His parents have been exposed to the values that they have grown up fundamentally in which it refers to their old world’s culture, while Frank Li is manifested in the new and modern world of America in which he has been living on a daily basis. Growing up as an immigrant child is always not easy for Frank Li for trying to feel belonged to one specific culture. Instead, this creates confusion for him because he never feels completely adjusted to either Korean or American culture.

Frank Li also views on the cultural differences between Korea and America creating a bridge for his life. He has to struggle with overcoming the boundaries of these two different values in both cultures. In addition, his parents are still very strict and traditional. It means that his parents have a strong mentality about maintaining the traditional culture of their home country. On the other side, Frank Li grows up within the Southern California upbringing which shows the opposite of the traditional values of his parents. When he is with his family, he tries to fit in with the Korean culture, and when he is with his friends, he tries to go along with the American culture. This also explains about something about two different values trying to live inside Frank Li's life, but that just never happens for Frank Li's situation.

3.2.3.2.1 Frank Li's Perception Towards Korean Values

Frank Li's parents never let him enjoy his life in the American society. Frank Li even states that his parents "*are fooling themselves that they're not really in this world, here in America.*" (2019:53). It can be learned that Frank Li's parents, who have been in America for a long time, are still skeptical of living in America. Hence, it makes them even more skeptical of Frank Li enjoying his life in the American society.

Frank Li's parents' traditional values also affect him in any way that he can either embrace the differences or be trapped in confusion. As it has been mentioned, Frank Li is a 16-year-old adult in which he is in the adolescence. According to identity crisis theory that is proposed by Erik Erikson (1968: 17), adolescence is the age which individuals are easy to experience their identity confusion. In Frank Li's

situation, his adolescence is filled with school and interest in love life. However, his love story adds the complexity to his identity crisis problem. That is because he dates Brit Means which is a White girl in his calculus class. The fact that Brit Means is White is problematic for Frank Li and his identity. He believes that Brit Means has the kind of privilege for being White. Therefore, Frank Li is also aware of the gap between him and Brit Means.

Frank Li's perception towards Korean values also gives him the reason as to why his parents' expect him to date a Korean woman. He argues that it is the dream of Korean people. He further argues,

“We get married and have kids, and those kids will marry nothing but Koreans and have more kids, and that their bubble will stay intact after they've gone. They want us to take care of it forever.” (2019:52).

From the previous statement, it can be learned that the reason behind his parents' expectation towards Frank Li is that they want him to continue taking care of the Korean generations. It also resonates with the Korean traditional values that are presented in the story.

3.2.3.2.2 Frank Li's Perception Towards American Values

Frank Li's relationship with Brit Means also adds to the portrayal of the different values within Frank Li's parents' world and Brit Means' world. As Frank Li realizes the gap that exists between him and Brit Means, he also understands the different values that go around his life. It means he has to deal with his parents' values which represent the Korean values and Brit Means' values that exemplify the American

values. Upon describing the differences, Frank Li says that Brit Means has “*an image of an intimate dinner with Mom-n-Dad, like how white kids do it in the movies. She wanted to be introduced.*” (2019: 84). It can be seen from how Frank Li describes Brit Means as the representation of the White culture and value. The previous statement also shows that Frank Li tries to tell the relation between the White people and something that is available on the movies. It can also be interpreted that movies is the presentation of the imaginative world that seems far to make it into reality when it comes to relating to his parents’ world.

3.2.3.2.2 The Impact Between Korean and American Values on Frank Li’s Life

The existence of the differences on value of both cultures is a strain for Frank Li. It also shows the impact of how he relies on his relationship with Brit Means. As he tries to describe his relationship with Brit Means, he argues that, “*the idea of keeping worlds separate- the world of Frank-n-Brit and the world of Mom-n-Dad- sounds about as impossible as, oh, I don’t know, keeping the worlds of Korea and America apart here in Playa Mesa.*” (2019:83). It can be learned that Frank Li is desperate about his relationship with Brit Means due to the differences between Korean and American values. Frank Li also implies that Brit Means’ world and his parents’ world are two separate worlds that have the opposite values. Hence, Frank Li feels that he is always reminded by the gap between his parents’ world and Brit Means’ world. He also says that Playa Mesa is far from impossible about making his expectation into reality. It has been mentioned above that Playa Mesa belongs to White. It is Brit

Means' world in accordance to Frank Li's perspective. Therefore, Frank Li needs to accept the reality that there is a space in this matter.

3.2.3.3 Frank Li's Identity Crisis Towards His Dilemma of His Sense of Belonging

The continuity of Frank Li's identity crisis is that he finally loses his sense of belonging. That is because Frank Li keeps trying to balance his life with two different worlds which have the opposite values. The result is his identity crisis problem makes him feel isolated. He states, "*I feel like I don't belong anywhere and every day it's like I live on this weird little planet of my own in exile,*" (2019:141). These lines indicate that he describes his journey of seeking his identity as being confined to his own world. It also resonated with the identity crisis theory by Erik Erikson (1968:17), it says that when a person is going through identity crisis, he is combatting a war within himself. In Frank Li's problem, his war is about arguing which world he seems to fit in. Then, in the previous line also shows that he is psychologically affected by his sense of belonging.

In the process of understanding himself, he also starts recognizing the acceptance of his identity. However, when he acquires the feeling of acceptance, Frank Li's excessive self-consciousness appears. Instead of achieving his desired identity, he is imprisoned with the condition in which he does not fit in anywhere. He starts to feel his sense of belonging. It can be learned from this statement, "*I'm not Korean enough. I'm not white enough to be fully American.*" (2019:141). From the

previous statement, it explains as to why he does not feel belonged to the worlds in which he is trying to fit in. It also indicates that Frank Li is going through an intense stage of his identity crisis. In the middle of developing his identity, he experiences a confusion in which he is not confident about how he describes himself. He is trapped in his own thoughts about not being able to reconcile. He does not feel Korean because he barely speaks the language and does not resonate enough with the culture. To consider himself a Korean also does not do him justice in which he states, "*I just know I'll never be able to do Korean right.*" (2019:132). It indicates that Frank Li feels that he is not proper to be a Korean. That is because whenever he attempts to integrate with the Korean values, other Koreans always make a big deal of it. Hence, he does not feel empowered with the self-identification for being a Korean only. On the other side, he never considers himself American because he always measures the word "White" in order to be American. In that case, his physical judgments do not seem to justify him to be an American.

3.2.3.3.1 Frank Li's Acceptance of His Identity

Aside from what he goes through by having to hold his Korean-American identity, he is finally able to feel the acceptance of that identity. The first thing that makes him feel the need to accept his own identity is when his father says, "*I am Korean. You Korean too. But you also American boy, hundred percent.*" (2019:263). Frank Li's father's previous statement clarifies that he is aware that his son is holding two identities. By mentioning that Frank Li is also an American means that Frank Li also

belongs to the American community. This also puts aside from his perception of being American in the context of physical appearance.

The impact of his father words is huge for him. That is because he is always struggling about defining his own identity. He is left with no other choice but to accept the existence between Korean and American that are aligned with his own world. Finally, Frank Li feels rooted to where he is belonging. His acceptance feeling can be also learned from the following quotation, *“I used to think I had two names: Frank, my quote-English-end-quote name, and Sung-Min, my quote-Korean-end-quote name. But now, I’m calling Frank my first name and Sung-Min my middle name.”* (2019:269). It can be noticed that his acceptance of being a Korean-American is by combining his two names into one solid name. That also explains that the impact of his confusion on his sense of belonging makes him achieve his committed identity. It means Frank Li is able to pass his identity crisis by accepting his Korean-American identity.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Immigrants who come to America bring their own cultures, but sometimes they want to maintain the culture of their home country by keeping up with the values and traditions. However, this becomes a problem for their children who are already engaged with the American culture which refers to the modern culture. The cultural differences for the children of immigrants can lead them to have an identity crisis. The identity crisis problem can be reflected in David Yoon's *Frankly in Love*.

David Yoon's *Frankly in Love* portrays the life of Frank Li as the main character who experiences an identity crisis. Frank Li in *Frankly in Love* is portrayed to be a senior year high school student who lives in Playa Mesa, Southern California. Being the child of the Korean immigrant parents who was born and grown up in America, his personal identities are identified as a Korean and a Korean-American. Meanwhile, Frank Li's social identity belongs to the social group called the Limbos. It is a group of the children of the Korean immigrant parents who share the same experience as Frank Li due to living between two different cultures. Furthermore, being exposed to the two different cultures between Korea and America, Frank Li finds difficulty in fitting in with both cultures. This problem causes him to have an identity crisis in his adolescence age upon dealing with many differences that surround his life. The phases of his identity crisis problem starts with his perception on American physical appearance in which he equates being American with being a

White. In realizing that he does not fit in with either Korean or American culture, he has different values on how he perceives Korean and American culture. The complexity of his identity crisis problem finally brings him to the stage of experiencing dilemma due to his sense of belonging. The dilemma of his sense of belonging also brings him to the accomplishment of his identity.

In conclusion, even though Frank Li has to face many challenges in order to deal with his identity crisis problem, he is finally able to understand himself and accept the differences. Given the cultural differences between Korea and America which also represent the traditional and modern values, Frank Li decides to neither choose Korean nor American culture. Instead, Frank Li tries to assimilate to both cultures by applying to the acceptance of his identity. Therefore, the acceptance of his identity is presented by introducing his full name with the combination of his Korean and American name which is Frank Sung Min Li. Frank Li's journey of seeking his identity also clarifies that an individual is able to go through the identity crisis phase in his life, and the accomplishment of an identity also proves that identity crisis always give an answer for everyone who seeks for it.

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APPENDIX

A. Summary of *Frankly in Love*

Frank Li is the main character in “Frankly in Love”. He is a 16-year-old Korean-American senior year high school student who lives in Playa Mesa, Southern California. As a Korean-American, he has a Korean name which is Sung Min Li. His parents are immigrants from Korea who came to America in 1992, and Frank Li was born and raised in America within the Southern California society. He describes himself as a nerd who likes to watch dubious clips and play video games. He also acquires a high SAT score with the intention of going to a good college. Hence, he always hangs out with a group of smart students in his school in which they are labeled as the “Apeys”. Outside of school, he hangs out with the Limbos, the name of the group of Korean-Americans. His father owns a store called The Store where his parents have to work there every day for 24 hours. He also has a sister named Hanna who goes to Harvard. Hanna ticks all the boxes for being a perfect Asian daughter. However, she ends up marrying a black man which results in her being disowned by her parents. That is because his parents are still racist and conservative.

Living under the pressure of his Korean conservative parents, Frank Li has to deal with the situation upon the opposing values between Korean and American culture. He grows up in Southern California and is used to the way of living among the teens in his age which are also more open to the differences of race, ethnic, and culture, but his parents do not let him enjoy his teens’ way of life in America. Their

parents want him to live up with their traditional expectations of maintaining the Korean culture even though they are living in America. One of the cultural standards is that he has to marry Korean women only.

The problem of the story arises when Frank Li starts falling in love with Brit Means, a girl in his calculus class. What makes it problematic for Frank Li is that Brit Means is a White girl. Frank Li has to hide his relationship with Brit Means in order not to hurt his parents' feelings and expectation. However, after doing several dates, Frank Li starts feeling uncomfortable with the boundaries between him and Brit Means. Even though both Frank Li and Brit Means' parents are immigrants who settle in America, Brit Means' family do not have an identity problem because they are White which is seen as a majority in America.

As time goes by, he decides to end his relationship with Brit Means. Frank Li begins questioning about his sense of belonging. He does not think it is good for him to keep living the life in which he needs an acquired identity even though he tries hard to be in his own world. He is caught up between two different worlds which are hard for him to fit in. Reflecting upon his life struggle about defining his true identity, he tries to understand about the hyphenated identity in his name. In the end, he decides to accept his identity as a Korean-American. He also introduces himself as Frank Sung Min Li which is the combination of his Korean and American name.

B. Biography of David Yoon

David Yoon is a Korean-American author and illustrator. He is the second child of the Korean immigrant parents who moved to America to seek a better life. Yoon grew up in Orange County, Southern California. His exact date of birth is not revealed, but it is said in a magazine interview in 2019 that he was 47 years old. He is married to Nicola Yoon who is a Jamaican-American novelist. Yoon also became an illustrator for his wife's novel entitled *Everything Everything* in 2015. He is currently living in Los Angeles, California with his wife and his daughter. In his writing career, Yoon has written books, short stories, and screen plays. He is also known to be the author of Young Adults (YA) novels. Growing up in Southern California as a child of immigrant parents, Yoon relies on his life story and turns them into his literary works. Most of his works are related to his life experience as an immigrant child. His debut novel is *Frankly in Love* (2019) which takes the genre of a Korean-American rom com that depicts the story of a Korean-American young adult in the life of Southern California society. His other works are *Super Fake Love Song* that is released in November 2020 and *Version Zero* that is expected to release in early 2021. Yoon's achievements include New York Times Best-selling Novel for *Frankly in Love*, a William C. Morris Award finalist, and Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature Honor book.