

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Personality denotes a depiction regarding how an individual behaves toward their environment, as evidenced by their thought patterns, attitudes, and viewpoints regarding life. Life demonstrates that individuals can feel delighted, serene, and joyful while also feeling resentful, worried, disappointed, and so forth. These occasions exhibit the way individuals perceive their personalities through life's ups and downs.

To fully comprehend personality, an individual needs to define what exactly personality represents and examine how a specific personality develops. Moreover, examining an individual's personality is fascinating since it naturally leads to an improvement in the comprehension of oneself. This happens due to the fact the particular trait of an individual is the personality which evolves with them through each of life's phase.

Stephen Chbosky's first debut novel, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, is regarded as an enticing novel which received major popularity, especially among teenage readers. This novel is intriguing given that the narrative is presented in a sequence of letters sent by Charlie toward an unidentified character. By presenting these letters, this novel is regarded as one of the author's most personal forms of communicating directly to the target readers.

The writer of this present study found herself drawn to *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel since it addresses a variety of adolescent topics. This novel also emphasizes the value of interpersonal relationships throughout adolescence since they assist individuals in comprehending their beliefs and their intentions for their lives. Therefore, the writer chooses Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* to analyze Charlie's journey toward personality development.

1.2. Research Problems

1. How is Charlie's initial personality in the novel?
2. How is Charlie's developed personality in the novel?
3. What are the factors of Charlie's personality development in the novel?
4. What are the categories of Charlie's personality development in the novel?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1. To elucidate Charlie's initial personality in the novel.
2. To elaborate on Charlie's developed personality in the novel.
3. To examine the factors of Charlie's personality development in the novel.
4. To analyze the categories of Charlie's personality development in the novel.

1.4. Previous Studies

Previous studies, both from the thesis and the journal, support the writer in performing a new finding of the present study. The first preceding study is with the title *Sublimation of Charlie in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Setya Octaviani from Airlangga University is the author of this study. This study is a 2015 undergraduate thesis which investigates sublimation as a form of defense mechanism employed by Charlie.

The second prior study is a 2016 undergraduate thesis entitled *The True Meaning of Wallflower as Seen in Charlie in Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. The author of this study is Kurnianingtyas Dita Purwita Sari. The study examines the actual definition of a wallflower as presented by Charlie.

The third previous study is titled *Traumatic Experience Resulting from Sexual Abuse in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being in a Wallflower*, written by Fenita Austriani and published in 2017. The author analyzes the traumatic experience of Charlie. The study employs the post-traumatic stress disorder theory.

The fourth preceding study is Farah Kamilia's undergraduate thesis, *Charlie's Depression in The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. It was published in a 2021 journal entitled *LITERA KULTURA: Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies*. The author intends to elaborate on Charlie's depression and painful encounters.

The fifth previous study is titled *Introvertiness of a Male Character Portrayed in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. This study is Ratri Anggraeni's 2022 undergraduate thesis. This study explores Charlie's introverted traits, along with the factors and effects of Charlie's introvertiness.

The sixth prior study is Molly Nilson's 2022 essay, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower in the EFL Classroom: Childhood Sexual Abuse, Reversed Gender Roles, and Trauma Responses*. The essay's author analyzes childhood sexual abuse trauma. Female-perpetrated sexual assault and betrayal trauma are investigated.

The seventh preceding study is authored by Yasmin Medina Anggia Putri, Mardliya Pratiwi Zamruddin, and Fatimah Muhajir and titled *Social Environment's Influence on Charlie's Hard Times in The Perks of Being a Wallflower Novel*. It is

from a 2023 journal, *Ilmu Budaya: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni, dan Budaya*. This study aims to analyze Charlie's social environment.

The eighth previous study is acquired from Ahmad Nizam Azmi's 2023 undergraduate thesis. This study is entitled *Charlie's Hierarchy of Needs in Novel The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky*. The study employs Abraham Maslow's theory to demonstrate the hierarchy of needs of Charlie.

The ninth prior study is a 2023 article journal, *The Ego Defense Mechanism of The Main Character Charlie in The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky*. The authors of this study are Nurul Dina Wijayanti and Yulistiyanti. This study utilizes Sigmund Freud's theory to examine Charlie's defense mechanism.

The tenth prior study is Rachel Rosen's article journal, *Trauma, Recovery, and Adolescent Relationships in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower: An In-Depth Analysis*. It is from a 2023 journal, *The Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*. It explores Charlie's recovery through letter writing.

Furthermore, the ten previous studies provide similarity with this present study regarding the object of the study, in which all of them utilize Stephen Chbosky's novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, specifically concentrating on the analysis of Charlie's character. There are also different points between the prior studies and the present study, including topic, theory, findings, and conclusion of the study. Moreover, the writer of this present study purposely elucidates Elizabeth Bergner Hurlock's personality development theory to investigate Charlie's journey regarding his personality development towards the end of the novel.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The writer chooses Charlie, the primary character of Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, as this present study's focus. For intrinsic aspects, this study examines character and characterization of Charlie, setting, and conflict of the novel, inferring from William Patrick Kenney's *How to Analyze Fiction*. For the extrinsic aspects, the writer concentrates on Charlie's initial and developed personality, along with factors and categories of Charlie's personality development, acquiring from Elizabeth Bergner Hurlock's *Personality Development*.

1.6. Writing Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of this study comprises the Background of the Study, Research Problems, Objectives of the Study, Previous Studies, Scope of the Study, and Writing Organization.

II. THEORY AND METHOD

The second chapter of this study comprises the theoretical framework which includes intrinsic and extrinsic theories, alongside the research method.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The third chapter of this study comprises the novel's analysis through the lens of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects.

IV. CONCLUSION

The fourth chapter of this study comprises a brief restatement of the analysis of the novel about Charlie's personality development.

V. REFERENCES