

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Parenting is a fundamental aspect of human development, serving as the primary context in which children learn to interact with others and develop a sense of identity. Parenting plays a significant role in shaping the development of children, influencing their values, behaviors, and worldview. In parenting, parents have the responsibility to protect, guide, support, and facilitate the overall growth and development of their children. Every parent has a different parenting style. According to Nancy Darling and Laurence Steinberg, this is influenced by various factors that shape parenting styles, such as the emotional relationship between parents and children, the culture and behavior of parents, and the values held by parents. These differences in parenting patterns will ultimately affect the child's personality as they grow and develop (2017:487).

Radio Silence (2016) is a novel written by Alice Oseman, an English writer that is famous for writing young adult fiction. Some of her well known works are *Heartstopper*, *Loveless*, and *Solitaire* which mainly talks about teenage struggles. *Radio Silence* by itself portrays teenager life dealing with their academic life. The novel narrates a high-school top student, Frances Janvier, and her friend, Aled Last, with their struggle in discovering passion while facing academic standards. Frances and Aled are having their own passion, yet their interactions and different family circumstances make them reconsider their motivation in the pursuit of their dreams. Frances' parents were very supportive of

their children's wishes. Meanwhile, in the case of Aled Last, his life choices were severely limited by his mother, Carol Last. She believed that success could only be achieved through academic excellence. Her value made her so obsessed with making Aled and his twin sister, Carys Last, academically successful that she resorted to demanding and restrictive parenting methods. Carol Last's method of parenting is the main conflict in the novel *Radio Silence*, where Aled has to live under academic pressure and his mother's harsh parenting methods, especially after his twin sister, Carys, decides to run away from home because of her mother's pressure.

The novel *Radio Silence* offers issues related to academic demands and parenting styles that have different impacts on children's behavior. The two main characters have their own dynamics with their parents' demands and parenting styles, especially those related to academic achievement. Through these two main characters, the author portrays how teenagers deal with academic expectations, their responses to their parents' parenting styles, and the depiction of the impact of parenting styles on children's behavior.

This study analyzes the parenting style applied by Carol Last towards her twin children in the novel *Radio Silence* written by Alice Oseman. This study also aims to examine how Carol Last's parenting style impacted her children's behavior. The analysis will be conducted using Diana Baumrind's parenting style theory as the fundamental theory. This study uses the novel as the main topic of the research.

1.2 Research Questions

- a. How does Carol Last represent authoritarian parenting in Alice Oseman's *Radio Silence*?
- b. What is the cause of Carol Last's authoritarian parenting in Alice Oseman's *Radio Silence*?
- c. What are the impacts of Carol Last's parenting style towards her twin children, Aled Last and Carys Last?

1.3 Research Objectives

- a. To describe the cause of Carol Last's authoritarian parenting in Alice Oseman's *Radio Silence*.
- b. To describe the implementation of authoritarian parenting style portrayed by Carol Last in Alice Oseman's *Radio Silence*.
- c. To describe the impacts of Carol Last's parenting towards her twin children, Aled Last and Carys Last.

1.4 Previous Studies

Briony Jae Ashley (2019) in her thesis entitled *Working Towards 'Gaytopia' in LGBTQ+ Young Adult Literature* discusses *Radio Silence* as one of the core texts in exploring how queer characters are portrayed in contemporary young adult novels. The thesis describes *Radio Silence*, as a novel, has a rather different approach in its representation of queer characters where their sexuality is second to the main plot. It is mentioned that *Radio Silence* has a better portrayal of queer community and struggles compared to the typical queer story plots.

Radio Silence book review by Emma Patton (2018) from *Children's Book and Media Review* discusses how *Radio Silence* is a novel that highlights a diverse range of characters in terms of race and sexual orientation. This diversity is presented to build character depth rather than simply serving as a plot device. It also states how the inclusion of popular habits such as social media in this novel provides familiarity and relatability with readers.

An article entitled *That was cringe, mate! – Characteristics and Translation of Young Adult Literature as Illustrated by The Polish Rendition of Radio Silence by Alice Oseman* written by Emilia Kawka (2022) from *New Vistas in Language Studies Young Scholars' Perspectives*. This study explores the challenges of translating young adult literature that features culture-specific vocabulary and diverse language varieties. It examines the defining traits of young adult fiction through a comparison of Alice Oseman's *Radio Silence* and its Polish translation.

A Thesis Entitled *The Representation of Asexuality in Selected Works of Young Adult Fiction* written by Francesca Xuereb (2021) from University of Malta. This thesis discusses *Radio Silence* as one of five novels that provides a good representation of asexuality. This research stems from the realization that after reviewing previous novels that offer representations of asexuality, it turns out that they often contain many misconceptions about asexuality.

Review of the book Radio Silence, by Alice Oseman written by Kara Babcock (2018) sees the novel as a brilliantly crafted one. The review highlights the plot is brave enough to provide something heavy and emotional while

empowering at the same time. The review also praises how the characters are well written so that they feel authentic and deeply human.

Radio Silence by Alice Oseman Book Summary written by Michel Fisher (2025) contains a review of the novel. The review describes the novel as a rich and thoughtful look into identity, self-expression, and the weight of academic expectations. It also describes the novel as engaging and relatable, especially how truthful the author addresses mental health and societal pressure.

This study explores a different research topic from previous studies. This study analyzes the novel *Radio Silence* written by Alice Oseman with the theory of parenting style using qualitative and psychological approach. Specifically, this study focuses on Carol Last's parenting style, its characteristics, and its impact towards her twin children, Aled Last and Carys Last.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on Carol Last's parenting style and its impact towards her children's behavior. This study intends to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic aspect in relation to parenting style conducted by Carol Last towards Aled Last and Carys Last within the novel *Radio Silence* and how it affects them. The intrinsic elements that will be analyzed are character, characterization, and conflict. Meanwhile, the extrinsic elements that will be analyzed are the type of Carol Last's parenting style, its characteristics, and its impact towards the behavior of her twin children.

1.6 Organization of the Writing

The following is the writing organization of this thesis which divided into four parts that include:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This section covers the research background, research questions, research objectives, scope of the study, and organization of the writing.

CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD

This section consists of two main parts: theoretical framework and research method. Theoretical framework is broken down into two parts: intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements cover the theories of character, characterization, settings, and conflict, while the extrinsic elements cover the theories of parenting style and the effect of parenting style towards children's behavior. Research method consists of data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III ANALYSIS

This section is divided into two parts of analysis: analysis of intrinsic elements and analysis of extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements explore the character, characterization, settings, and conflict. Meanwhile, the extrinsic elements will analyze the parenting style applied by Carol Last

towards her twin children and its impact towards their behavior.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This section is the conclusion of the answers and the results of the research regarding Carol Last's authoritarian parenting and its impact towards her twin children.