

The Identity Crisis of Jeng Yah in the "Gadis Kretek" Movie: The Study of Erick H. Erikson's Developmental Psychology

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Abstract

The study aims to analyze the identity crisis conflicts of Jeng Yah characters in the film "Kretek Girl" using the approach of developmental psychology of Erik H. Erikson. The method used is a qualitative approach, by choosing the movie "Kreta Girl" as the object of research and analyzing the character of Jang Yah based on the theory of personality development of Erickson. Hopefully, this research could make a significant contribution to understanding the personality psychology of the characters in the film, as well as be a reference for future researchers in analyzing the character in the context of developmental psychology. Thus, this research is expected to provide a deeper insight into the complexity of human personality and how it is reflected in media representations like movies.

Keywords: gadis kretek; Jeng Yah; Erik H. Erikson; identity crisis.

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Introduction

Literary works are expressions of human imagination that reveal questions about human problems, humanity, and the universe (Semi, 1993). Literature is divided into imaginative and non-imaginative (Sumardjo, 1997). Examples include poetry, novels, drama, prose, biography, and history. Drama, as part of imaginative literature (Aminuddin, 1990). Drama is a literary work written in the form of dialogue with the aim of being performed by actors. Drama is often produced in the form of theatrical performances or films. Characterization in films is an important aspect that allows the author to express the logical reasons behind the character's behavior.

Characters in films reflect the characterization given by the author, and the audience can understand the character through actions, dialogue, thoughts, feelings, cultural, social, and physical backgrounds (Sumarjo, 1984). The choice of characters and storylines in films are often inspired by true stories and influenced by the aspirations and expectations of culture and society. Characterization in films can also reflect individual

development, by reaching a turning point called a normative crisis, which if successfully passed will produce a positive identity. The role of characterization in Indonesian films, as seen in *"Laskar Pelangi"* and *"Sultan Agung: Tahta, Perjuangan, Cinta,"* has played an important role in advancing Indonesian culture by depicting the richness of culture, history, and traditional diversity. The characters in these films provide insight into friendship, enthusiasm for education, the struggle for justice, and love for Javanese culture. This shows that Indonesian films have the potential to blend local beauty and elevate cultural heritage beautifully in quality productions.

The film *"Gadis Kretek"* is the latest highlight, premiered at the 2023 Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) and then became a series on Netflix on November 2, 2023. This film is not only known for the stunning acting of its players, but also for its extraordinary depth of romantic, dramatic nuances, family conflicts, and competition in the kretek industry. This film presents the Javanese cultural landscape from the 1960s to 2001, with a rich historical atmosphere and depicts a love story, family dilemmas, and competition in the kretek business with high authenticity. The production of the film *"Gadis Kretek"* succeeded in blending local beauty and elevating cultural heritage beautifully in a quality production, becoming a real example that Indonesian films are able to enrich and strengthen local cultural identity through inspiring works.

This film shows Indonesia's cultural heritage and its ability to promote local culture. The film *"Gadis Kretek"* is the object of research to analyze the character of Jeng Yah. The phenomenon revealed in the film depicts the identity crisis experienced by Jeng Yah. Jeng Yah is caught between two different identities, creating a complex internal conflict, which reflects the dynamics of cultural and social change in Indonesia, especially Javanese women in the 1960s.

This study is supported by Erik H. Erikson's psychosocial development theory. According to Thahir's developmental psychology book, the structure of human personality is divided into three types, namely creative, functionally autonomous, and socially influenced (Thahir, 2018). The theory describes eight stages of individual development involving psychosocial conflicts that must be overcome to achieve healthy development. By applying this theory, this study aims to analyze how identity conflicts are reflected in the character of Jeng Yah in the film. The correlation between Erikson's theory and the problems that arise in the character of Jeng Yah in the film *"Gadis Kretek"* is that Erikson's theory provides a framework for understanding the changes and conflicts that occur in individual development. Previous research using the same object has not yet existed, so this study is a novelty in the use of Erikson's theory used to analyze the film *"Gadis Kretek"*. However, there are several previous studies that also use Erikson's theory in their research, namely by Asmara, who analyzed the personality of the characters in the film *"Mr Six"* (Asmara, 2020).

Next is Ahmad's research, which was conducted with the aim of understanding how children adapt, cope with stress, and react to stressful and conflictive environments (Ahmad, 2017). Then, Mayanti and Ahmad also conducted research that highlighted the inner conflict experienced by Cyril, which was analyzed through six stages of development from Erikson's theory. The references for this study are (Mayanti & Ridwan, 2022) (Ahmad, 2017). Next, there is research conducted by Yarno, analyzing the social development experienced by Anna Sasaki's psychology in the animated film *"When"*

Marnie Was There" (Yarno, 2023). Finally, this research conducted by Domi examines the character of Eun-Hee in the film "House of Hummingbird". This study focuses on the analysis of the psychological dimensions of the character, the actions and reactions of the character in conflict, and the narrative and cinematic elements in the film (Domi, 2024). The five previous studies mentioned support the use of Erikson's psychosocial development theory in analyzing character traits in the context of the film.

The purpose of this study is to understand the identity crisis conflict and personality complexity experienced by Jeng Yah in the film "Gadis Kretek" based on Erikson's theory of psychological development. Thus, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how identity conflict and stages of personality development are reflected in Jeng Yah's character in specific social and cultural contexts, as well as provide new insights into personality analysis in the context of developmental psychology.

Research on the film "Gadis Kretek" as an object of analysis to prove the ability of Indonesian cinema to blend local beauty and present cultural heritage has never been done before by anyone. The phenomenon of the success of this film, which began with its premiere at the Busan International Film Festival in 2023 and then became a series on Netflix in November 2023, created a unique momentum for this research. Not only is this film known for its stunning acting and extraordinary depth of romantic, dramatic nuances, family conflicts, and competition in the kretek industry, but also for its ability to bring the audience back to the past time period, namely the 1960s to 2001, with full authenticity. The making of this film successfully creates a rich historical atmosphere, presenting the Javanese cultural landscape with scenes that bring kebaya and traditional elements to life. Therefore, this study aims to dig deeper into how "Gadis Kretek" becomes an impressive representation of Indonesian cinema's ability to elevate and blend local beauty and present cultural heritage through quality production (American, 2023).

Method

The research method used in this study is a qualitative method (Fadli, 2021). Along with its development, qualitative research is then divided into several types of approaches. The approach in question is an approach used to make it easier for researchers to study a problem being studied. The research process with a qualitative approach in this study involves several structured stages: determining the object of research, data collection, data analysis, interpretation of results, drawing conclusions. This research process aims to provide a deep understanding of the identity conflict and personality development of the character Jeng Yah in the film "Gadis Kretek" using a qualitative approach. The location of this research was carried out virtually through the analysis of the film "Gadis Kretek". With a focus on the character of the character Jeng Yah, this study does not require a specific physical location, but is more oriented towards observation, analysis, and interpretation of film content (Creswell, 1994). The data sources for this study consist of two types of sources, namely the primary data source in the form of the film "Gadis Kretek" which is adapted from the novel by Ratih Kumala.

This film is the main object of analysis to identify the identity crisis conflict and the complexity of the personality of the character Jeng Yah and secondary data sources include information obtained from journal articles, theses, and E-books related to

Erikson's theory or the film "Gadis Kretek". Data from secondary sources are used to support the analysis and interpretation of the identity conflict and personality development of the character Jeng Yah in the context of the film. Observation is basically a process of obtaining information through the use of the sense of sight (Djamal, 2015). In this study, the researcher applied observation techniques to collect data with steps such as, Watching the Film "Gadis Kretek, Noting Scenes relevant to the identity crisis of the character Jeng Yah, then Collecting Film clips and dialogues that describe the confusion of Jeng Yah's identity are collected for analysis. Finally, data analysis is carried out based on milles and hubarman, in the form of transcription, categorization, coding, and narrative analysis. By applying these techniques, researchers can interpret the identity crisis conflict and personality development of the character Jeng Yah in the film "Gadis Kretek" based on Erikson's personality development theory.

Results and Discussion

Results

In the film "Gadis Kretek", the character Jeng Yah experiences a conflict of identity confusion that can be explained through the lens of Erick H. Erikson's developmental psychology study. Erickson stated that identity conflict versus role confusion is one of the stages of development that appears in adolescence, namely at stage 5 in Erikson's theory of personality development (Krisnawati, 2014).

1. Internal conflict

Jeng Yah struggles with a deep internal conflict. Jeng Yah feels trapped between the expectations placed on her by her family, the traditions that are strong, and the social expectations that are attached to her. Jeng Yah struggles with a deep internal conflict. Jeng Yah feels trapped between the expectations placed on her by her family, the traditions that are strong, and the social expectations that are attached to her. Questions about who she really is and what she should do with her life become a constant internal battle for her. As she tries to find answers to these questions, she often finds herself trapped in confusion and anxiety.

2. Eksternal conflict

Jeng Yah experiences pressure from her social environment, especially from the surrounding community and her family, making her feel trapped in a circle of unfulfilled expectations. The external conflicts faced by Jeng Yah are no less severe. Pressure from her social environment, especially from the surrounding community and her family, make her feel trapped in a circle of unfulfilled expectations. She has to deal with the conflict between her desire to fulfill other people's expectations and her desire to pursue her own dreams and identity.

All these conflicts bring Jeng Yah to the most critical stage of her personality formation. In this case, Erikson said that when someone has difficulty integrating various aspects of their identity into a cohesive whole, they can experience role confusion (Rompies, 2021).

Discussion

Impact and Logical Consequences

The impact and logical consequences of the results of the research conducted by the author are that Jeng Yah is likely to experience significant emotional and psychological challenges during the process of searching for her identity. Some of the possible impacts and consequences include emotional uncertainty, stress, feelings of being unacceptable, difficulty in decision making, potential mental health problems, and feelings of isolation (Muti'atun, 2023). Emotional uncertainty may arise because Jeng Yah feels confused, anxious, or restless due to uncertainty about her identity and role in her life. The complicated and uncertain process of searching for her identity can also cause high levels of stress for Jeng Yah, as well as feelings of being unacceptable if she feels she cannot meet the expectations or roles expected by her environment (Wicaksono, 2023).

In addition, ongoing identity conflict can make it difficult for Jeng Yah to make important life decisions, such as educational, career, or relationship choices, which can hinder her personal and professional development. If identity conflict is not managed well, Jeng Yah is at risk of developing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, or identity disorder. It can also make her feel isolated or lonely because of difficulties connecting with others due to uncertainty about her identity. Jeng Yah can experience strong identity development or ongoing identity confusion, depending on how she successfully resolves the identity versus role confusion conflict during adolescence. In addition, the outcome of the early adulthood stage, namely intimacy versus isolation, can impact Jeng Yah's ability to form healthy and meaningful relationships. A supportive social environment can help Jeng Yah in her identity search process, but if the environment is inhibiting or rejecting, this can complicate her identity conflict and cause difficulties in her personality development. The reactions and stereotypes of people around Jeng Yah as a female smoker can affect her self-perception and identity search process, as well as affect her self-esteem and emotional well-being.

Jeng Yah's character undergoes significant changes in her identity. She initially experiences weakness and confusion, but through the journey, she rediscovers her inner strength and accepts her new destiny. In addition, Jeng Yah undergoes a process towards self-maturity, where she realizes the importance of standing alone and supporting herself and her younger sibling. In the end, Jeng Yah accepts her new self and accepts Seno as her life partner, marking the stage of self-acceptance in her journey of discovery. The impact of the changes experienced by Jeng Yah can also be felt in the family dynamics, creating a strong bond between them. In addition, Jeng Yah's decision to return to work at Seno's father's kretek factory shows her professional growth, while acceptance of her new situation marks her personal growth. Therefore, the stages of personality development experienced by Jeng Yah in the film "Gadis Kretek" have complex impacts and consequences on her development as an individual.

Another theory of self-identity also exists, namely from Marcia who describes four identity statuses that individuals may experience during adolescence: moratorium, search, acceptance, and commitment. In the context of Jeng Yah's character, we can see how she goes through the stages of searching and moratorium, where she tries to understand her identity and explores the various roles and values that are appropriate for her. The identity conflict she experiences reflects Jeng Yah's efforts to determine who she really is, similar to what is explained in Marcia's theory (Putri, 2013).

In addition, Marcia's self-identity theory also emphasizes the importance of the influence of the social environment in the formation of identity. This is in line with what is highlighted in the presentation, that the social environment, family, and society have an important role in shaping Jeng Yah's identity and how she understands her roles. By comparing the results of the presentation with Marcia's self-identity theory, we can see how the concept of identity and role in the formation of Jeng Yah's character personality is in accordance with different theoretical perspectives. This can provide a broader and deeper perspective on the character's experience in searching for her identity.

Conclusion

This study discusses the journey of Jeng Yah's character in the "Gadis Kretek" series using Erickson's theory of personality development. Jeng Yah experiences identity conflict and role confusion, which are reflected in her character's journey in finding her identity. The impacts include significant emotional and psychological challenges, such as uncertainty, stress, feelings of not being accepted, difficulty in decision-making, potential mental health problems, and feelings of isolation. However, through this journey, Jeng Yah managed to find her true identity, experience personal and professional growth, and strengthen her bond with her family. For further research, it is recommended to explore certain aspects of the identity conflict experienced by the character Jeng Yah. For example, further research can be conducted on the influence of the social environment and stereotypes on adolescent identity development. In addition, research can also expand the scope to understand the impact of identity conflict on interpersonal relationships and well-being in more depth. In addition, comparing the character's experiences with the experiences of adolescents in the real world can provide greater insight into the process of identity search during adolescence.

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