

Portrait of American Preadolescence's Personality in Instant Family Film based on Alfred Adler's Perspective

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Abstract— This study aims to describe the portrait of American preadolescence personality in Instant Family Film, and it explains its causal factors based on Alfred Adler's perspective. This study is a qualitative descriptive with the literature psychology approach. Data sources are taken from dialogues and scenes in Instant Family film. Data collection techniques used are watching, listening, and taking notes. Data validity techniques used are increasing perseverance and discussing with colleagues. Data analysis techniques used are based on Miles and Huberman model. They are data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The result shows that (1) Inferiority forms are feeling lonely, feeling difficult to adapt in a new environment, selfish, being careless, discouraged easily, quite emotional, and feeling high ambitious. They were successful in realizing their superiority through being obedient, cheerful, optimistic, and talented one same as their interest, being happy like biological children. Their subjective perception forms are portraits of a happy family that does all activities like other families. Therefore adoption is not a problem to create a harmonious family. The social interests shown are empathy from both foster parents and the social environment around them. Then, they have a unique lifestyle but simple. 2) the causal factors of inferiority complexity are negative perspectives about foster children in orphanages especially teenagers. Causal factors of striving for superiority, subjective perception and social interest are coming from good communication between family members and all three siblings. On the other hand, the causal factors of unique and simple lifestyles are coming from their simple backgrounds such our houses, clothes, even their simple toys, and playing areas.

Keywords— *character formation, film, individual psychology, international adoption discourse*

I. INTRODUCTION

Based on data recorded in 2016, there were 425 thousand preadolescence's the United States are living in orphanages and waiting for the arrival of good parents who will adopt them. The arrival of foster parents is their happiness and memorable moment in their life such as performed the uploaded photos on Fimela.com [1].

In social relations between individuals, social interaction will influence character formation, especially family. Interaction with parents and siblings also has an important role in preadolescence's development. Life worthiness also influences personality formation, because all these element is a children's right. It stipulated in the UN convention on children's rights in 1989. It was written that children have the

right to get the best care, protection from discrimination, and a decent life for their physical, mental, spiritual, and social development [2].

Based on the urgency of individual social relationships, personality has a big influence on social interaction between individuals because personality is a real thing in individuals and leads to behavior characteristics [3]. In psychology dictionaries, personality means the totality of individual characteristics, especially related to other people [4]. Adler stated that personality is naturally influenced by position in the family, social situation, and care as efforts of age differences [3].

In Adler's perspective, consciousness is a centre of personality that caused psychological development, especially ego. Human is a conscious creature and them aware of their inferiorities, even they aware of their goals that they are fighting for [5]. Adler's considerations are based on individuality. They've been seen as the subject matter. Based on his perspective, each individual has two main points namely social and power. From here, being creative is the main point of understanding human behaviors [6].

Adler considers that humans are naturally weak and helpless until leads to inferiority and dependence on others. As well as individual psychology is viewed as an individual as interdependent social beings. There are six components in Adler's theory. They are a struggle to be superior, subjective perception, unity of personality, social interest, lifestyle, creative self-power [7].

Research about personality is not a new thing, based on page <http://garuda.ristekdikti.go.id>. Many studies about personality, there are 1) Autentisitas Kebahagiaan dalam Novel Putra Salju (2011) by Salman El-Bahri: Kajian Psikologi Sastra by Abdul Basid dkk that aims to understand happiness authenticity based on psychological perspective. There are three forms of happiness authenticities in human life, namely good life, pleasant life, and meaningful life [8]. 2) The Influence Of College Students ' Coping Styles On Perceived Self-Efficacy In Managing Inferiority by Changxiu Shi and Xiaojun Zhao that focused on personality forms between college students on style and some causes how it happened. there were significant correlations among the problem solving, self-blame, and fantasy coping styles, and general self-efficacy and perceived self-efficacy in managing inferiority [9]. 3) Inferiority Complexity in F Scott Fitzgerald's

The Great Gatsby by Ita Husniyati which focussed on the inferiority complex. It was experienced by the characters in the film. The result shows that Gatsby had high ambitions in changing his life, and he reached his goals successfully. They are wealth and love, while daisy used an inferiority complex to protect himself [10].

Researches above indicated the existence of personality elements which suitable for Adler's perspective. It showed that Adler's personality can be applied in a film as an imitation of real life. The film also documented the social conditions that occurred at a specific time. Concerning the phenomenon between object and theory, researchers are increasingly interested to describe the portrait of the character's personality in the film Instant Family. Besides, adoption cultures in America are popular now, especially in international trades. It supported researchers to apply the Adler's personality theory.

Such as explained above, this study will describe the portrait of American preadolescence is a personality in Instant Family film which released in 2018. This study focuses on the personality forms from Lizzy, Juan, and Lita based on Alfred Adler's perspective, and explain the causal factors of appearing personality.

II. METHOD

This study is a qualitative descriptive that examines the conditions of natural objects and makes the researchers as the main instrument in the study [11]. The qualitative study takes a theoretical sample which can determine the representation of data built theory [12]. Descriptive research also aims to describe the phenomenon and characteristic's systematic, factual, and accurate population such as Instant Family Film[13]. Primary data sources of this study are taken from dialogues Instant Family Film and supported by related literacy like books, journals, and the internet as secondary data sources [14].

By data sources, data collection techniques used are watching, listening, and taking notes [12]. To prove the suitability of the hypothesis with available data, and related information, data will be analyzed inductively [15]. Data validity techniques used are increasing perseverance, discussing with friends and experts [16]. In the inductive analysis, data analysis techniques used are based on Miles and Huberman model. They are data collection, data reduction, data display, dan conclusion drawing [12].

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Researchers describe forms of personality elements based on Adler's perspective that presented in film Instant Family in table I as follow:

A. Form of Adler's Perspective Personality Elements

TABLE I. FORM OF ADLER'S PERSONALITY ELEMENT

Personality Element	Adler's Personality Element Form
Inferiority	Feeling lonely, feeling difficult to adapt in a new environment, selfish, careless, discouraged easily, and quite emotional, high ambitious
Superiority	Obedient, cheerful, optimistic, and talented one same as their interest, being happy like biological children
Subjective Perception	Portrait of a happy family which do all activities like other families

Social Interest	Empathy from both foster parents and social environment around them
Lifestyle	a unique lifestyle

Based on the table above, the researcher found forms of inferiority, superiority, and subjective perceptions. Every child has a different inferiority form, and they can handle it in different ways.

1) Data 1

Juan: *oh my god, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry*

Pete: *no, it's okay. Don't cry. Relax.*

Watch your feet okay! raised feet.

Juan: *I didn't mean too. I'm so sorry*

Juan showed excessive guilt as an inferiority form. Inferiority is shown when Juan repeatedly apologizes to Pete for his action. He feels guilty for what he had done, but he considered that it is not his fault. He drops a glass of milk accidentally, then he shows his high anxiety as his inferiority form.

By Adler's perspective, inferiority always considers his self to be a useless one, even though he is expected by people around him [17]. Indirectly, that scene showed that Juan is a careless one who harms people around him.

- *Form of striving for superiority*

Not only inferiority forms, but researchers also find forms of striving for superiority from three siblings as foster children. They try to adapt to the new environment. Striving for superiority forms will be presented in the dialogue below:

2) Data 2

Lizzy: speaking of court...I just won't apologize for what I wrote the judge.

Lizzy: speaking of court...I just won't apologize for what I wrote the judge.

Ellie: It was all true.

Lizzy: yeah, it was a little out of context maybe, but there's no hard feeling.

Ellie: actually, I wanted to give you the statement we wrote that we couldn't read in court.

Just you have to read.

Lizzy: yeah...!!

The dialogue above shows that Lizzy successfully reached her superiority as a foster child. The manifestation of striving for superiority can be proved when she apologizes to Pete and Ellie for her actions in court. She is aware that her legal letter was so excessive. It seems that she dispenses her foster parents, so she must be responsible for her actions by apologizing to her parents sincerely.

As well as Adler's view that each individual can form their behaviors freely, and create their personalities here [18]. The meaning of superiority here is superior for himself rather than others. Therefore, the main driving force in human life is dynamics that reveal causal factors of an individual's behavior, namely encouragement, and striving for superiority.

- *Subjective Perception Form*

Subjective perception is part of Adler's personality elements. According to him, human personality isn't built by reality, but an individual's subjective beliefs about his future. The most important subjective perception is the goal of being superior or being successful. As characters in Instant Family Film that presented in the conversation below:

3) *Data 3*

Pete: everybody gets ready for dinner

Here you go

Juan: what if when we go live with our mom. : She doesn't know how to make my noodles the way I like to have them?

Pete: don't worry pal. Lizzy will show her the way we do the cheese for you. So your mom can make it for you just the way you like.

Juan: okay.

Lizzy: come on, guys. Don't be sad on our last night, huh?!?You know what? I think we should tell Pete and Ellie thank you!

Lizzy: Lita?

Lita: I don't want to say anything

Ellie: oh... honey.

Lizzy: I'm just gonna go check on Lita. I mean, unless you want to.

Ellie: Yeah, I would, actually. Thanks.

Pete: common buddy. You haven't touched your pasta. You want me to reheat it for you? It's okay buddy...!

That expression shows that Juan and Lita have the same subjective perception. Subjective perception forms can be proved in the dining table scene when they looked sad. It seems that they don't want to leave their foster parents.

Also, the statement above shows Juan's concern for his biological mother later. That statement can prove that Juan has a subjective perception about the portrait of a happy family which always pays attention to him and support him.

Such as Lita, rejection form like conversation above is an expectation that family remains intact and she doesn't want to leave her foster parents. She is aware that she begins to accept all their attentions as real affection forms rather than her biological mother.

Otherwise, with Lizzy, she is really happy when she will come back to her biological mother. As a conversation above, Lizzy tries to entertain her young sister by changing the topic and trying to do activities as usual.

Adler views consciousness as the centre of personality so that individual psychology assumes that individual interdependence each other [7]. In other hands, subjective perception's function as a motivator to lead better superiority, and become balancer among other elements. As well as a phenomenon on three siblings, their subjective perceptions can support individuals being successful in realizing their superiority for a better life. Thus, they can change their inferiority into positive things.

- *Social Interest Form*

Social interest is one of supporting media, then individu can achieve their superiority. Social interest is an individual's interest in the humanism of other individu, until appearing

empathy feeling among individuals[19]. This element appears in Instant Family Film which shown by Lizzy in the conversation below:

4) *Data 4*

Ellie: actually we were just gonna go on the water ride.

Shandy: oh let her go with her friends. They don't want to stuck here with a bunch old farts like you two. They want to ride big stuff and check out the hot boys. Here hundreds. Buy your self some souvenirs and junk food.uh-huh.

Lizzy: thanks grandma shandy. Thanks. Uh okay. I'll meet you guys at the front at what time are we going back to the tour house?

Ellie : we're going back at our house, where we all live at 7:00!

Lizzy : okay, I'll see you then. Bye!

Grandma Shandy's statement shows her tolerance for Lizzy when she plays with her friends. Even grandma Shandy supports her by giving pocket money to Lizzy and her friends. This action proved that supportive environment can help Lizzy to achieve her superiority. The entity of superiority appears when Lizzy received grandma Shandy's kindness with pleasure, then she obeys Ellie's orders.

According to Adler's view, social interest is an important part of human life which can be appeared in various forms for each individual [7]. In addition, Adler also states that social encouragement has an important role in personality development [20]. Therefore, social interest can help individuals in achieving their superiorities.

- *Lifestyle Form*

Every individual has a different lifestyle because humans are created with various differences. In a review, lifestyle describes as individual's ways for spending his time with his interests as well as their views on the surrounding environment[21]. Such us three foster children of Pete and Ellie in film Instant Family. They have different lifestyle like this conversation:

5) *Data 5*

Pete : hey, guys. Wow, you really like cardboard boxes, huh? Is anybody interested in playing with a giant dollhouse that took me three hours to assemble?

Pete : hey, guys. Wow, you really like cardboard boxes, huh? Is anybody interested in playing with a giant dollhouse that took me three hours to assemble?

Lita : did it come in a big box?

Pete : yeah, it did. It came in a big 200 box

Lita dan Juan : go, let's go! Come on. Let's go get the box.

Pete : chritsmas is boxes

Ellie : yess.

Lita : yeay...!!!

Lita and Juan have unique interests. On Christmas day, they're really happy. They get a present from their foster

parents. Different from general preadolescence, they are really happy when they got the toy box. Unfortunately, they don't like toys at all. This scene proves that they have a unique lifestyle. According to their interest with the boxes. It shows that simple things can make them happy, and also support their creativity to be a creative one.

As well as Adler's perspective that every individual has unique ways to reach their specific goals that have been determined in their own life. In addition, a person's lifestyle has been formed since 3-5 years old, then all experiences forms are assimilated as their own specialty[20]. Therefore, lifestyle will not be changed in his self.

B. Causes of Adler's Personality Element

The equations are an exception to the prescribed spThe existence of inferiority's feelings is also based on some causal factors that supported it. Some phenomenon in Instant Family Film cause the emergence of inferiority's foster children such us conversation below:

TABLE II. CAUSES OF ADLER'S PERSONALITY ELEMENT

Personality Element	Personality Element Form	Causes of Personality Element
Inferiority	Feeling lonely, feeling difficult to adapt in a new environment, selfish, careless, discouraged easily, quite emotional, and high ambitious	Negative perspectives from Pete and Ellie's family about foster children in orphanages especially teenagers
Superiority	Obedient, cheerful, optimistic, and talented one same as their interest, being happy like biological children	Good communication between family members and all three siblings
Subjective Perception	Portraits of a happy family which do all activities like other family	
Social Interest	Empathy from both foster parents and social environment around them	
Lifestyle	a unique lifestyle	Their simple backgrounds such us house, clothes, even their simple toys, and playing areas.

Some causes form in the table are descriptions of the overall causes that appear in Instant Family Film. The explanation describes based in these following data:

1) Data 6

Pete : you know what? I'm sick of looking atthat, to hell with it, I'm going over there.

Pete : you know what? I'm sick of looking atthat, to hell with it, I'm going over there.

Ellie : pete..hey..pete. pete.. what are you doing there

Pete : look at them over there. Everybody's avoiding them like they're dipped in shit. I'm just gonna say hi...

Ellie : yeah.. okay.. hey..pete,pete..just wait. I know. I think it's awful, but they're teenagers okay? They use drugs, and they masturbate and watch people playing video games on youtube. We're nor equipped for that.

Pete : what do we have to be equipped for? I'm just going to say hello.

Ellie : I know..I don't think we should do that.

Ellie's statements are so clear that she has a negative view of preadolescence, especially teenagers. she considers that children who are preadolescence have a bad temper. They are vulnerable to being influenced by a free lifestyle. This view makes Ellie reluctant to adopta child from preadolescence. Therefore, that view is one of the causal factors for preadolescence in orphanages.

According to psychological reviews, inferiority is universal and becomes a positive encouragement for achieving superiority. This feeling appears when someone overreacted with inferiority feeling or perfectionism striving [22]. Therefore, negative views to preadolescence in Instant Family Film become one of the causal factors for American preadolescence's inferiority.

Based on the urgency of inferiority as positive energy for American preadolescence, they are successful in achieving their superiorities. The form of striving superiority, subjective perception, and social interest are found in Instant Family Film. It does not appear naturally, but there some causal factors behind it. These causes are coming from an internal and external individual like conversation below:

2) Data 7

Lizzy: what are we doing here?

Pete : let's go

Lizzy : I'm gonna be late for school, you know

Pete: come on

Lizzy : okay, so you're punishing me with manual labor. I've worked harder than you've ever.

Pete : Yeah, I know you're a badass. This isn't punishment, okay? Come on. Put this on

Lizzy : what ?

Pete : just put them on. Lizzy, I know you're angry.

At us, at the world, maybe at yourself a little bit. I don't know, and you're not talking. Truth is when I'm pissed. I don't like to talk about it, either. But you know what I do like to do? I like to break shit.

Lizzy : really?

Pete : Anything in this room. Swing away! How'd that feel?

Lizzy : it felt good

In the conversation between Lizzy and Pete, Lizzy looks annoyed with her problems. She assumes that Pete punishes her for her attitudes to Ellie, but on otherwise, Pete wants to help Lizzy in order she compensates for her inferiority through

appreciating her with unique ways. This way is Pete's support as a foster parent. He doesn't limit her, even he helps to find a solution which is lightened by Lizzy's burden. Thus, Lizzy achieves her superiority and has a positive subjective perception of her foster parents.

In psychological reviews, if each family member loves each other and establishes good communication, then it becomes a harmonious family. It can disrupt social relations with each other [23]. Same with Lizzy, a good communication relationship with foster parents makes her successful in achieving superiority and become a better person.

On other hands, they also have a unique and simple lifestyle. Their lifestyle also has specific reasons like conversation below:

3) Data 8

*Lita : potato chips has been bad today. Bad girl!
Bad,bad,bad. Don't talk back, you little
beaner!*

Ellie : oh.. uh I don't think thats....

*Brother and sister: you know what? She picks up
stuff off the tv. Oh.. don't give me the look.*

Ellie : let's not call her bad names like that

*Lita : don't tell me how to treat my kid! You think you're
better than me huh?*

Lita shows her unique lifestyle. She likes so much with potato chips until gives her a doll's name like that. Not only that, she shows her free lifestyle and stubborn. That phenomenon appears because of its environment and far from parent's attentions. Only Lizzy cares for them as the oldest one from three siblings. In addition, a simple house also becomes a causal factor in dressing way and playing with simple toys.

Based on those phenomena in film Instant Family, three siblings can achieve their superiorities in various ways. Several factors either internal factors or external factors led to realize Alfred Adler's personality elements. Internal factors are coming from their own desires to realize a happy family, even though they have different personalities. They still respect each other and help each other among family members. In addition, high solidarity is possessed by Pete and Ellie's family as external factors that supported them to achieve their own superiorities.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the researcher's finding, there are various forms of personality elements of Adler's perspective. These 29 forms are indicated by Lizzy, Juan, and Lita. The forms of striving for superiority are about 16 forms. While the subjective perception forms of three preadolescence are about 8 forms, and they have 6 various lifestyle forms.

Inferiority forms of preadolescence in that film are feeling lonely, hard to adapt in a new environment, selfish, careless, helpless, emotional, and high ambitious. In addition, their superiority struggle forms are successfully being obedient one, the cheerful one, optimistic one, and talented one like as their interests, and being happy such as biological parents in the middle of a happy family.

Their subjective perception forms are perspectives about a happy family that does all activities are a portrait of a happy family which does all activities like other families. Therefore adoption is not a problem to create a harmonious family. Social interests shown are empathy from both foster parents and the social environment around them. Then, they have a unique lifestyle but simple. In addition, the causal factors of inferiorities are coming to form a negative perspective about foster children.

Various forms of personality elements that appeared in instant family film shows that each individual can change themselves into a positive one with all their experiences. Each individual will learn to appreciate life from their new experiences. Based on the suitability of theory and object, Adler's personality theory can help to find a portrait of American preadolescence in general. Therefore, researchers consider this theory being applicable to other literary works, such as the novel, and short stories.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We presented this article to The Forum of Young Researchers, Fakultas Humaniora, UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang Indonesia where we study together, conduct various academic especially for research.

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