

THE IDENTITY CRISIS OF ALI AS PORTRAYED IN *ALI'S WEDDING*
(2017)

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

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THE IDENTITY CRISIS OF ALI PORTRAYED IN *ALI'S WEDDING*

(2017)

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ABSTRACT

Identity crisis is an intense period of time when an individual is exploring various roles that can be accepted as his or her identity. It occurs particularly when a person is in the process of identity development. In *Ali's Wedding (2017)*, Ali is a Muslim immigrant in Australia who faces a complicated identity crisis. He is burdened with expectations of his parents and the conservative society around him. He also experiences a cultural clash from two opposite cultures, that is, of the Middle Eastern and Australian. In this situation, Ali explores other roles to find the true identity that can be achieved by himself. It triggers some conflicts in his identity development as a young man. In his period of late adolescence, he should deserve getting his freedom to make a decision and to determine the choices without any compulsions. This qualitative research uses identity development theory by Erik Erikson, identity status theory by James Marcia, and movie theory by Villarejo. This research found that Ali experiences identity confusion. It can be explored through the identity statuses as an elaboration of the identity development theory based on the person's crisis from each component's identities. The research finds that Ali's identity crisis can be explained within three identity statuses i.e., identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. This research also proves that social context gives a big influence on Ali's identity formation. It can determine whether a person would experience identity confusion or successfully find his true identity.

Keyword: *adolescence, social influences, identity crisis, identity development theory, identity status*

KRISIS IDENTITAS PADA ALI TERGAMBAR DALAM *ALI'S*

WEDDING (2017)

Oleh: Miladia Nur Aini

ABSTRAK

Krisis identitas adalah masa intensif seseorang untuk mengeksplorasi berbagai peran yang dapat mereka terima untuk menjadi identitasnya. Itu terjadi ketika seseorang dalam proses perkembangan identitas. Dalam *Ali's Wedding (2017)*, Ali ialah seorang imigran Muslim di Australia yang mengalami krisis identitas yang rumit. Hal tersebut terjadi karena beberapa pengaruh dari orang tua dan sosial yang konservatif, yang mana mereka membebankan ekspektasi pada Ali untuk menjadi apa yang mereka inginkan. Ia juga mengalami perbenturan budaya dari dua budaya yang berlawanan antara Timur Tengah dan Australia. Dalam situasi itu, Ali mengeksplorasi peran-peran lain untuk menemukan identitas yang dapat diterima dirinya. Hal tersebut menimbulkan beberapa konflik dalam perkembangan identitasnya. Dalam masa remaja, harusnya ia berhak mendapatkan kebebasan untuk membuat keputusan dan menentukan pilihan tanpa paksaan. Penelitian kualitatif ini menggunakan teori perkembangan identitas dari Erik Erikson, status identitas dari James Marcia, dan teori film dari Villarejo. Peneliti menganalisa bahwa Ali mengalami kebingungan identitas. Hal tersebut dapat diidentifikasi dengan empat status identitas dari James Marcia sebagai perluasan dari teori perkembangan identitas berdasarkan krisis yang terjadi dari setiap komponen identitas. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa krisis identitas pada Ali berada dalam tiga status identitas yaitu *identity foreclosure*, *identity moratorium*, dan *identity achievement*. Penelitian ini juga membuktikan bahwa konteks sosial memberi pengaruh besar pada pembentukan identitas seseorang. Itu dapat menentukan apakah seseorang menemukan identitas dirinya atau mengalami kebingungan identitas.

Kata kunci: *remaja, pengaruh sosial, teori perkembangan identitas, krisis identitas, status identitas.*

MOTTO

You are what you believe yourself to be.

- Paulo Coelho

There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure.

- Paulo Coelho



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DEDICATION

This graduating paper is dedicated to:

My great parents and my young brother

My beloved self

My past and future

My big family

And

To all of people who have filled my precious memory.



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Finally, the researcher considers that this graduating paper is still far from being perfect. Therefore, the researcher welcomes suggestions and critics from the readers to improve this paper.

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Yogyakarta, August 7, 2021
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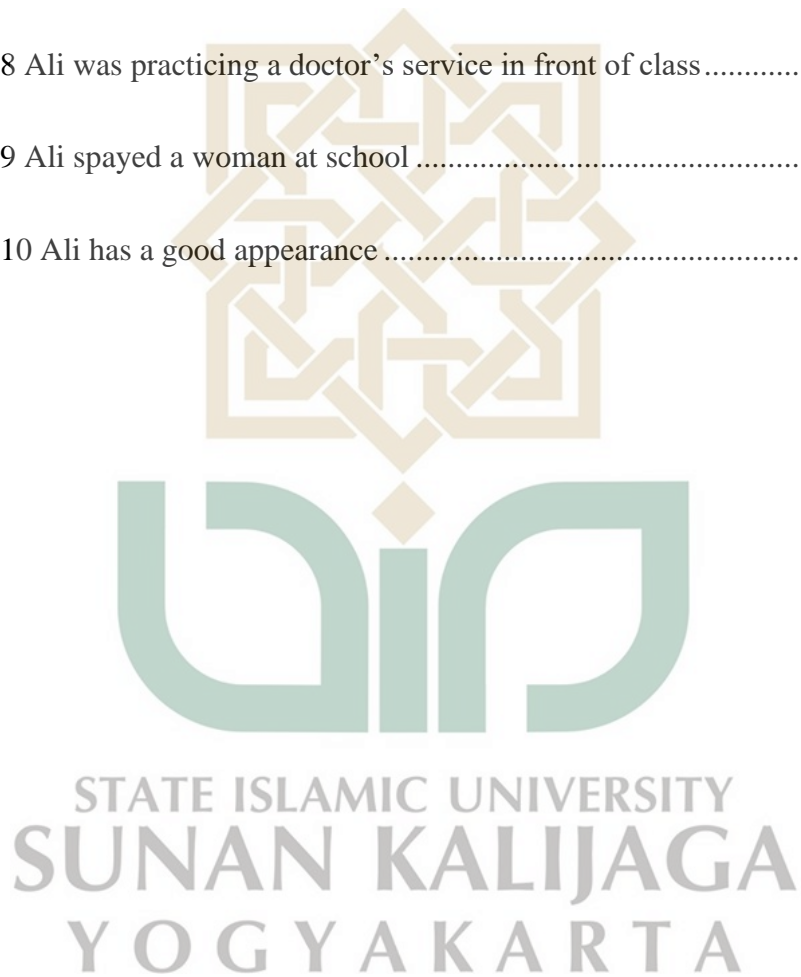
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Ali's Wedding (2017) is one of the interesting movies to discuss identity, especially focusing on the identity crisis of the character there. This movie is directed by Jeffrey Walker and released in 2017. *Ali's Wedding (2017)* is adapted from the memoir *Good Muslim Boy* by Osamah Sami (the main character). It tells about Ali's life and the community of Muslim immigrants in Australia. Besides being based on the true story, this movie also can give a clear illustration of the identity crisis that appears in Ali as the main character. It is presented in the complex cases of some different roles and cultures faced by Ali in his process to find his identity. Ali is a young man who faces a complicated identity crisis in his identity development. He is an Iraqi son of a Muslim cleric that lives with his authoritarian parents and conservative social ethnicity. As a minority, his parents pass on the traditions and beliefs to their children with the aims to preserve their cultural origin. They hope the next generation will persist in the identity and ideology of the ancestors, even though they live in other countries.

What makes *Ali's Wedding (2017)* interesting to discuss is not only about the ways in which the movie explores the identity crisis of a young man, but also about the fact of this young adult as a Muslim immigrant. Ali experiences an unusual identity crisis who faces many different cultures in the multicultural country. He is in confusing situations where he has to deal with cultural clash between two opposite

cultures that influence some components of his identity in identity development. In addition, his parents and society demand him to become the person they want. At the age of 24, Ali deserves to explore some roles and choices that will be acceptable for himself, because he is in the period of late adolescence. In this part, vocational interests, relationships, and identity crises are more described in late adolescence than early adolescence (Santrock, 2014: 16-17). Besides, those conflicts may make him late to pass the next stage of psycho-social development if he cannot resolve it.

Identity is one of the most important aspect to know and to understand about human being. According to Erikson, identity is a coherent self-concept that determined beliefs, goals, and values to watch an individual has strong commitment (as cited in Papalia, Olds, Feldman, 2009: 390). Erikson describes that identity is the fifth stage in eight-act sequence of life conflicts that the person encounters along the road from birth to death in old age (as cited in Kroger, 1996: 21). In this phase, people will face an identity crisis in their identity development. Santrock (2014: 146) said that a crisis is a period of identity development during which the adolescent is choosing among meaningful alternatives. The crisis involves the shift of perspective, requiring us to refocus our instinctual energy in accordance with the needs of each stage of the life cycle (as cited in Schultz, 2017: 163). It can be concluded that identity crisis is the intensive time of an individual to explore different roles that can be accepted as her or his identity. After passing these phases, person can answer some questions about What am I? Who am I? What is different about me? What am I going to do with my life? How can I make it on my own? (Santrock, 2007: 143).

In Erikson's stage of psycho-social development, identity crisis occurs when a person is about 12-18 years old (as cited in Schultz, 2017: 164). However, the process of shaping the identity does not just begin or end in adolescence. In one study, 30 percent of people studied were still looking for an identity as late as 24 (Archer as cited in Schultz, 2017: 181). By understanding someone's identity crisis, it gives some lessons to people as an adult to allow adolescent the time and chance to explore various roles and personalities (Santrock, 2014: 144). Hence, it will reduce the case of role confusion of adolescents that can make them late in finding their identity and becoming trapped in society.

In identity development, social context is one of the factors that can influence adolescents to find the identity. It may give a positive or negative impact on them. Santrock (2014: 73) said that social context has an important role in identity development. There are family influences, cultural/ethnic, and gender. Parents are important figures to support the healthy growth and development of children, both physically and psychologically, especially how they use parenting style that will give impact on their children from childhood to adulthood in behavior, attitudes, and choices. Cultural/ethnic becomes the second role that can be seen from how someone engages in the ethnic group to defend their beliefs. Gender also will establish ideology in some components of identity such as career, relation, and gender itself. In youth, someone has to get the balance between freedom and needs toward identity.

Based on the explanation, the researcher is interested to discuss the process of Ali's identity crisis that can be analyzed with identity development theory by Erik Erikson, in order to discover whether Ali succeeds in finding his identity or

experiences identity confusion. Besides, the researcher uses identity status by James Marcia to identify and to resolve the crisis of identity development towards four statuses of identity. These are identity diffusion, identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. The researcher also applies movie theory for analyzing the object and supporting data.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the explanation above, the researcher formulates the following question as problem to be answered in the analysis: How is the process of Ali's identity crisis during his adolescence?

1.3 Objective of Study

This research aims to analyze the process of Ali's identity crisis in his adolescence as seen in *Ali's Wedding (2017)*.

1.4 Significance of Study

Hopefully, this research can be used as a proper reference for further research on identity crisis. This research shows that there are some phases in a person's identity crisis. In identity development, there are many factors that can influence a person's identity formation. It may give a positive or negative impact. By understanding this research, it will make people more realize and respect each other for the differences, because everybody has their own problems during of the process of their identity search.

1.5 Literature Reviews

Ali's wedding (2017) has been discussed in some previous researches and articles. Some of them used masculine identity theory by Connell, while this research uses identity development theory and identity status to explain and solve the problem that has been found in the movie. Here, the researcher also finds other researchers that discussed identity crisis using Erik Erikson's theory and the identity status by James Marcia. Below are the explanations of some prior researches.

The first research is a thesis entitled "*The Shaping of Ali's Masculine identity as Seen in Ali's Wedding (2017)*". This research analyzes masculine identity formation portrayed in the main character using R. W. Connell's theory and a film theory by Ed Sikov to support the analysis. Masculine identity is shaped by social relations. Ali is an immigrant who lives in Australia faces different cultures that influences his masculine identity. He lives with Muslim community which should make him have Islamic sense of masculinity, but his masculine identity is different from that of people around him. As the minority in Australia, Muslims will maintain their cultural origin strongly, but Ali has another view. (Nisaul Mutmainah, 2019)

The second research is a thesis entitled "*Identity Crisis Seen in Pecola's Characteristics in Morrison's The Bluest Eye*". This research explains that Pecola is obsessed to have blue eyes and physical appearance like white people. She gets unfair treatment from her family, teacher, neighbors, and friends. Pecola considers her physical appearance ugly, and it makes her get different treatments. She wishes society can respect and accept her if she can change herself. Therefore, Pecola

experiences an identity crisis when she tries to find her stable identity in her adolescence period. That research answers two problems: (1) Pecola's characteristics and how Pecola's characteristics reveal her identity crisis (Susan Pasca Lina, 2010).

The third research is a journal article entitled "*Identity Crisis in Adolescence Period Experienced by Asha in Shilpi Somaya's Secret Daughter*" written by Adlina Larasati from the Faculty of Language and Arts, Yogyakarta State University. The research explains about identification of the identity statuses that shows the identity crisis of the main character in *Godda's Secret Daughter*. In that research, the main character to be analyzed is Asha, an Asian-Indian adolescent who lives with her adoptive mixed-race parents in America. This research also conveys the impact of Asha's identity crisis toward her six stages of psychosocial development theory, identity achievement status by Marcia, and literary elements theory (Adlina Larasati, 2017).

The fourth research is a thesis written by Rahmatiah entitled "*Identity Status in Barry Jenkins' Movie 'Moonlight'*". The research discusses identity status discovered in the main character of *Moonlight*. Chiron is the main character who becomes the object of the analysis. In this research, there are three identity statuses found in the main character. Those are identity diffusion, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. The research uses the identity status theory by James Marcia. In the research, some of the self-portrait of Chiron's identity that has been achieved are physical identity, sexual identity, and career identity. (Rahmatiah, 2017).

The last research is a journal entitled “*Identity Crisis of Benjamin Button in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*”. That research focuses on Benjamin’s character that is written by Astri Rahayu Agshari. In the movie, Benjamin is portrayed as a man who gets progeria disease. He was born as an old man, and it makes him seem different from normal people. That research aims to investigate the identity crisis of Benjamin as a major character that uses Erik Erikson’s perspective to examine the validity of identity theory in analyzing a fictional character. The research also has a purpose to identify Benjamin’s identity crisis because of his unusual aging process (Astri Rahayu Agshari, 2017).

From some literature reviews above, this research will be a different discussion, because this research focuses on the process of Ali’s crisis to find his identity. This research also tries to explain all of the important components in the identity based on the cases faced by Ali in *Ali’s Wedding* (2017).

1.6 Theoretical Approach

The researcher applies identity development theory by Erik Erikson to discover whether Ali finds his identity or experiences identity confusion. This theory is elaborated into four identity statuses by James Marcia used to identify the person’s crisis from every component of identity in identity development. Therefore, the researcher will focus more on using identity status theory to discuss the process of Ali’s crisis in identity development. The researcher also uses movie theory to be secondary theory for analyzing the object and supporting data.

1.6.2 Identity Development Theory

According to Santrock (2014: 143), Erikson said that identity vs. Identity confusion is the fifth stage of psycho-social development that occurs during the adolescence years. In this stage, adolescents will start deciding about who they are, what they are, and where they will be because they are faced with many choices (Santrock, 2014: 143). When they aware of their responsibility, they will begin searching for dreams, like what are the important things to their life. Crisis or exploration and commitment are two elements Erikson saw as crucial to form identity (as cited in Papalia, Olds, Feldman, 2009: 392). Commitment is a personal investment in identity, while exploration or crisis is the mass of identity development in which adolescents choose significant alternatives to strengthen the commitment (Marcia as cited in Santrock, 2014: 146). Both dimensions are not always stable. Those may be in high and low positions.

In identity development, adolescents will face an identity crisis or known as identity exploration. They also will undergo psycho-social moratorium as part of an identity crisis.

Erikson stated for this phase that youth who successfully pass through these conflicting roles and identities emerge with a new sense of self that is both refreshing and acceptable. But adolescents who do not succeed to resolve the identity crisis suffer will experience *identity confusion* (as cited in Santrock, 2012: 143).

From that statement, identity confusion can motivate adolescents in two possibilities whether they will isolate themselves from society and family, or immerse themselves into the environment, so they lose their true identity. It also makes them still in exploration until they resolve the conflicts.

1.6.2 Identity Status Theory

James Marcia (as cited in Kroger, 1996: 46) has empirically elaborated Erikson's theory about identity versus identity confusion conflicts into four identity statuses or resolutions based on the commitment of social roles and the attitudes of crisis. Its function is to know the crisis whether the adolescent finds the identity or experiences identity confusion in identity development. Marcia classifies the four statuses based on the presence or absence of exploration and commitment (as cited in Papalia, Olds, Feldman, 2009: 392). There are four status identities as follows:

1. Identity diffusion

This identity status directs to an adolescent who has a low commitment and a low exploration in identity crisis. In this status, adolescent usually shows little interest in occupational and ideology, because they still have unclear choices to decide the matters (as cited in Santrock, 2014: 146).

2. Identity foreclosure

This status involves a high commitment to identity with low exploration. This occurs when the parents give and determine these commitments which do not come from the conscious choices of adolescents

(Schultz, 2017: 176). Then, the adolescents do not get any chance to make own conscious choice.

3. Identity moratorium

This identity is the stage when adolescents have an active crisis or exploration, but they still have not decided on an obvious commitment to their identity (as cited in Santrock, 2014: 146). They hold contradictory views and alternately rebel toward parents and authority figures, but adolescents need guidance from them (Schultz, 2017: 176). It caused by their need to be free to explore the identity and push them creating some conflicts.

4. Identity achievement

Identity achievement directs to the commitment of choices which is made by adolescent and the period of exploring roles actively (Papalia, Olds, Feldman, 2009: 392). In status, adolescent has an equally high degree of exploration and commitment to the identity.

To identify the identity crisis of the main character, the researcher relates the identity component and identity status (Santrock, 2007: 72). It will answer the exploration and commitment of the main character in every status of his identity. In Santrock's explanation (2006: 398), identity is self-portrait composed of many pieces that are well known as a component of identity. These pieces include; vocational/career identity, political identity, religious identity, relationship identity, intellectual identity, sexual identity, gender identity, cultural/ethnic identity, interest identity, personality identity, and physical identity (Santrock, 2014: 144). The

identity status is used as a tool to classify how many pieces of self-portrait that can be found by an adolescent in every status. Indeed, resolving identity crisis is not always stable and it may be changing until the next stage of psycho-social development.

1.6.3 Movie Theory

The researcher uses a movie theory as a second theory to analyze the object and supporting data. Movie theory can help the researcher explore and find the meaning and interpretation in every scene. Bela Balazs (1952: 44) states that “A movie contains images which give more detail story in that movie. In a movie, the language of gesture is more personal and individual than language of the words.

According to Villarejo (2007: 28-38), there are two important aspects in analyzing a scene in the movie; mise-scene and cinematography. Villarejo (2007: 29-35) said, there are six components that consist in mise-scene: setting, lighting, costume, and hair, make up, figure behavior, and cinematography. This research only uses lighting, figure behavior, and cinematography to analyze the movie. These components are appropriate to support the analysis based on the issues. It will give clear explanation in short paragraph. Lighting can build the mood and direct detail. It has a system of three-point lighting that describes three sources of lighting. There are a key light, a fill light, and a backlight to balance for effect in any given shot (Villarejo, 2007: 32). Figure behavior can describe the movement, expressions, or action of the actor or other figures within a given shot (Villarejo, 2007: 35). The last component is

cinematography. The researcher focuses on seven techniques in camera angle for this research based on Villarejo explanation (2007: 36-38), as follows:

1. The extreme long shot, covers a wide area, including the human figure and environment;
2. The long shot, focuses on the subject, but the background is still visible;
3. The medium long shot, frames the whole subject from knees up;
4. The medium shot, frames the whole subject from waist up;
5. The medium close-up, frames the subject from chest up;
6. The close-up, frames subjects, especially face;
7. The extreme close-up, frame just the person's facial features.

The researcher uses those components with aims to explain each character and other intrinsic elements. Another reason for choosing those components is to help the researcher answer the question of this research.

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of Research

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research. According to Creswell (2009: 1), qualitative research is a means for understanding and exploring the meaning of the social phenomenon, either individuals or groups. This type of research can help researcher get the meaning and interpretations from the data

explorations related to the object of study. The researcher also uses library research to get many sources of material such as books, journals, articles, and websites.

1.7.2 Data Source

The data sources of this research consist of primary and secondary data. The primary data are obtained from the contents of every single scene in *Ali's Wedding* (2017), including shots and dialogue of the main character and other characters. The secondary or supporting data are found from some reviews, books, journals, articles, websites, and other works that can be related to the main data, especially focus on the object and theory.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses observation research and some steps to collect the data. Observation is the process of gathering open-ended, firsthand information by observing people and places at the research site (Creswell, 2012: 213). First, the researcher watches the movie used two subtitles, English and Indonesian. The researcher observes the picture, script, and acts that contain the problem. Then, the researcher identifies the intrinsic elements of the movie such as theme, plot, character, and characterization, and setting. Before analyzing the problem, the researcher makes explanations and start to classify the data based on the stage of identity status that can be found from every component of identity in identity development.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The first step is identifying the problem and the supporting events from the selected character. After finding the problem in the main character, the researcher matches it up with the identity development theory by Erik Erikson and identity status by James Marcia. The researcher also uses movie theory to support the data. Then, the researcher classifies the data and analyzes the events which are appropriate with dimension of the identity development theory such as exploration and commitment, and the stage of identity status. The last step is drawing a conclusion based on the data analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction that consists of background of study, problem statement, objective of study, significance of study, literature reviews, theoretical approach (identity crisis theory and movie theory), methods of research (type of research, data source, data collection technique, and data analysis technique) and paper organization. The second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of *Ali's Wedding*. It contains theme, movie summary, plot, character and characterization, and setting. The third chapter provides the analysis of the data using identity development theory by Erik Erikson, identity status by James Marcia, and movie theory by Villarejo. The last chapter is the conclusion that provides the conclusion of the research including suggestion for future research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

In the analysis of *Ali's wedding* (2017), the researcher focuses on the processes of Ali's crisis to find the identity. It is found that during the crisis, Ali still faces three statuses: identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. That means, he experiences identity confusion because he has not passed the "MAMA" cycle for several components of identity in his late adolescent period. Each status is based on the cases and the presence or absence of exploration and commitment in every component of identity. The main reason why he got identity confusion is due to the conflicts in his identity foreclosure. It can be seen from the family influences and the participation of the Muslim immigrant community as the social context that plays a lot to determine the choices of Ali's identity. They try to preserve and pass on their traditions and belief to him. However, he also succeeds in resolving the conflicts within some components of identities and undergoing positive identity development. It can be seen from his crisis in identity moratorium and identity achievement.

In identity foreclosure, Ali does not have clear choices to follow his own decision. There are some components of Ali's identity that have the biggest conflict in this status i.e., intellectual identity, relationship identity, personality identity, and political identity. Ali is expected to be a scientist. His parents and the community also arrange Ali's engagement with a woman they choose, not what Ali chooses.

They assume that Ali will have a better life if he follows the path that they design for him. Those problems make him immerse his real personality and lose his freedom of thought and action.

In the identity moratorium, Ali wants to be free to explore his identity. He to some extent even dares conflict with his parents and other authority figures. It leads him to low commitment and high exploration in several components of his identity. It can be found in Ali's career identity, religious identity, ethnic/cultural identity, and interest identity. In this status, Ali tries to go against the expectation of his parents and the community, but he still needs guidance. He realizes that he deserves the rights to make a decision because he has responsibility for himself and his life. He explores various roles and abilities actively. These are his ways and his chance to find his identity with his pure intuition.

The last identity status is identity achievement where Ali succeeds in the processes of finding the identity, and it can be achieved by himself and society. It occurs when he has experienced the equality of the high exploration and high commitment of an identity. In this status, Ali has finished the previous stage of identity status in identity development i.e., sexual identity, gender identity, and physical identity. Being heterosexual, being masculine, and having a good body image are accepted by himself and society as the representation of a proper human being, especially in belief of Muslim immigrant community. Ali does not face the complicated process on those three components of his identity because there is no contradiction between his personal investment and society's expectation. It is

different from other components of his previous identity status that might be resolved in his crisis, in particular identity foreclosure.

4.2 Suggestion

Ali's Wedding is an interesting movie that gives many lessons about some important issues. This research only focuses on identity as a branch of psychosocial development theory. However, it has explained generally all of the components of identity that are found in Ali's crisis. This movie can also be discussed with other theories that may relate to the issues in the story. Every piece of self-portrait can also be analyzed in details such as gender identity, career identity, religious identity, and other components of identity.



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