

**CRISIS IDENTITY IN NOVEL *TEN THINGS I HATE ABOUT ME***

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## FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Other's writer's opinion or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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Atas pertimbangannya, saya ucapkan terima kasih

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**MOTTO**

**The best of human is those who are useful to other**

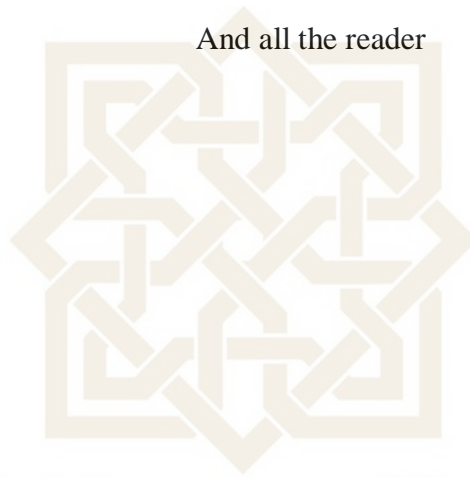


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## **DEDICATION**

This graduating paper is dedicated to  
my family. My dearest people who  
support and trust me.

And all the reader



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Finally, I realized that this graduating paper is still far from perfect and it still needs many corrections and I allow all of the readers to give suggestions and advice for better improvement. I hope this graduating paper may be useful to other researchers interested in this topic.

*Wassalamualaikum Wr. Wb.*

Yogyakarta, July 29<sup>th</sup> 2022

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## **CRISIS IDENTITY IN *TEN THINGS I HATE ABOUT ME***

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### **ABSTRACT**

In this paper, the researcher analyzes a novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. The research focuses on Jamilah as the first main female character in the story. This research aims to find the identity crisis of Jamilah inside the story. Jamilah as the main character in the novel. She experienced the identity crisis from environment around that Jamilah lives have racial discrimination to the people who have different identity. *Ten Things I Hate About Me* portrayed the struggle of identity crisis in Australia against their racial discrimination of using the fake identity as a way to survived in the environment. The researcher analyzes the Jamilah's struggle from racial discrimination environment, using the social identity theory by Henry Tajfel, social identity theory is a theory focuses on the individual knowledge that she belongs to certain groups together with some emotional value and significance to her of this group membership. Social identity by Henry Tajfel tries to explain transformation about identity which is coming from preference where people who lived in the group. Before deciding the identity that she/he chose they have an identity crisis to make their own identity. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The researcher figures out a conclusion after analyzing that there is an intolerance regarding the identity crisis in Jamilah's which are transform her to use fake identity to survived from racial discrimination.

**Keywords:** Social identity, identity crisis, psychology, identity

## **KRISIS IDENTITAS DALAM *TEN THINGS I HATE ABOUT ME***

By: Ainia Fany Nur Khofifah (17101050075)

### **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan krisis identitas Jamilah di dalam cerita. Jamilah sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel. Novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me* ini menggambarkan perjuangan krisis identitas di Australia melawan diskriminasi rasial mereka menggunakan identitas palsu sebagai cara untuk bertahan hidup di lingkungan. Dengan menggunakan teori identitas sosial oleh Henry Tajfel, teori yang berfokus pada pengetahuan individu bahwa dia milik kelompok tertentu bersama-sama dengan beberapa nilai emosional dan signifikansi baginya dari keanggotaan kelompok ini. Identitas sosial oleh Henry Tajfel mencoba menjelaskan transformasi tentang identitas yang berasal dari preferensi di mana orang-orang yang tinggal dalam kelompok. Sebelum memutuskan identitas yang dipilihnya, mereka mengalami krisis identitas untuk membuat identitasnya sendiri. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Peneliti mengambil kesimpulan setelah menganalisis, bahwa ada intoleransi mengenai krisis identitas pada Jamilah yang mengubah dirinya menggunakan identitas palsu untuk bertahan dari diskriminasi rasial .

**Kata kunci:** Identitas sosial, krisis identitas, psikologi, identitas.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Self-identity is an important thing in self-actualization to become a form of awareness of himself, who he or she is? as well as about self-characteristics, and making a decision about himself to determine things that he or she thinks are important and useful for him for the future. Also, has a standard that allows him to evaluate the actions. It takes that people can make themselves different from other individuals.

In the period of growth in the vulnerable children to adolescents will be more visible. In other words, this formation process certainly has its own phase to determine the preferences that according to him are suitable for him. The transition period between children and adolescents is certainly marked by behavior that shows that it is time to move on to adolescence, such as questioning who he is because he is already in the phase between children and adolescents. In the phase between children and adolescents is confusion in deciding who will influence him or who is used as a role model for identity formation according to his version. Identity is a people concept explained about themselves and how they relate to others (Hogg and Abrams 1988, 2).. In line with statement, the Threefold Advocate that the people need to show their identity for several reasons such as:

Firstly, maintaining self-identity is important because it strengthens your character. That is, when people know who people are, have confidence in our self and are able to identify our strengths, people emerge as stronger individuals. Secondly, it keeps us unique and distinguishes us from everyone else. God created each of us differently for a reason. Embrace who you are. Love yourself! Thirdly, maintaining our self-identity keeps us comfortable. The sooner people embrace ourselves, flaws and all, the sooner people rid ourselves of insecurities and become comfortable with who people are. And, believe me, you cannot put a price on being comfortable in your own skin. Finally, people become more aware of our immediate environment and our place in it. People are all here for a purpose and recognizing our self-identity equips us with what people need to live out that purpose. With that said, people entreat you to maintain your self-identity and to remain true to yourself always (Anga, February 19, 2015).

Besides, this phenomenon that reflects crisis identity is *Ten Things I Hate About Me* by Randa Abdel Fattah. In this thesis, *Ten Things I Hate About Me* by Randa Abdel Fattah is the object to be analyzed. This story begins with the prologue of one of the main characters which tells the life of a woman who is always ashamed and afraid of her reality. She is Jamilah Towfeek, a Muslim-Lebanese girl disguised by changing her name to Jamie with a mission to eliminate the WOG side in her that she doesn't want to be bullied by her schoolmates at Guildford High School in Sydney, Australia. Jamilah lives with her father, brother and sister who moved from Lebanon to Australia



because her father had a PhD in agriculture and his degree was so specialized that one of the available jobs required him to move to the Australian outback. Her mother had died of a heart attack when Jamilah was nine years old. Jamilah attended Guildford High School, a dilapidated, underfunded school west of Sydney. At school, there are differences between ethnic groups, delinquents, nerds, and loners. Sometimes there is also racist violence because the students at the school have different races but are more dominant with Anglo-Saxon backgrounds or are called “skips”. From the seventh to the tenth grade, Jamilah always hide the fact that she was Muslim- Lebanese. So, he changed his name to look like Anglo-Saxon people, dyed his hair blonde and sometimes wore blue contact lenses.

Erikson (1968), said that the phenomenon was experienced by Jamilah is crisis identity, crisis identity is a time to analyze and explore herself in different way. In other words, she finds yet the identity that are adhering from part of inner and outsider. It means that the exploration process someone who looked at other perspective in another point of view (Cherry, 2018). As long as forms an identity according to his version, this phase can be said to be an identity crisis that hits him to question all things that are inside or outside of him as well as emotions, thought patterns, and speaking style, dress and everything that is a physical form of example. The first example that resulted in him needing to find his identity. In fact, there are many examples of identity crises experienced by teenagers, such as emotional control, it is difficult to place oneself in the other person's position, in terms of appearance that will

affect his self-confidence or you could say; insecure in people who exceed their abilities or have different privileges with their peers. One of the signs of teenagers who are being hit by an identity crisis is that they carry out destructive actions or rebel against their boundaries that are not satisfied with their actions such as racism to their peers because they have outperformed their interlocutors so that they judge racial discrimination.

Here, the focus of the problem in this research is the problem experienced by Jamilah trying to hide her true crisis identity because there are racist issues around her environment. In this novel, there are many characters created by the author. But the researcher is interested in the central character in the novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me* because Jamilah has two different personalities that cause her to be unique in dealing with different people. In addition, the characters in this novel represent the framework of the problems that arise so that the conflict occurs and makes the reader reflect with the plot that the author made. Call it Peter who represents as a representation of racist figures in his environment. And after Jamilah observed the consequences of her unhealthy environment, she looked for ways to survive the toxic environment. In addition, Jamilah is committed not to be influenced by her environment by not joining her circle of racist friends. As a result of her racist environment, Jamilah found several ways to survive the victims of racism she had seen and seen during her move from Lebanon to Australia.

Furthermore, one way for her to escape from her racist and discriminatory environment, she hides her true identity because racism and

discrimination, which is originally from her native place of Lebanon and is Muslim and a name that tends to Arabians. If she uses his real identity, she will be troubled when she is at the airport. And also, according to her, Lebanese Muslims are synonymous with terrorism and all physical forms that are remembered by people who hate Islam. So, she chooses to be like a chameleon, when she moves from place to place, she has to adjust what is the same from that place, for example from the way she dresses, talks and all aspects of life related to her real identity. Therefore, it has to match the colors around it and if it shows its true color then it has no place to survive.

As a result, the researcher will discuss social identity in this study. Social identity is a special characteristic or condition of a group. According to Tajfel (in Hogg and Abram, 1998) social identity is part of a person's self-concept that comes from their knowledge of membership in a social group along with the value and emotional significance of that membership. Meanwhile, according to Fulthoni et. al (2009: 6) discrimination is the act of treating another person unfairly just because he or she comes from a certain social group, for example, namely discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, social caste and race in terms of certain physical characteristics such as hair type and skin color. In this study, the researcher will only focus on racial discrimination in *Ten Things I Hate About Me*

## **1.2 Research Question**

From the background above, the writer will formulate the problem to be

investigated:

1. How is crisis identity portrayed in Jamilah, and how does she cope with that in the novel *Ten Things I hate About Me*?

### **1.3 Objectives of study**

Related to the problem above, this research tries to analyze the answers of those questions, that is to find out how Jamilah committing on crisis identity portrayed in the novel *Ten Things I hate About Me*.

### **1.4 Significances of Study**

By looking at the title of the research above, the benefits of this research are:

1) Theoretically, this research can provide a deep understanding of the reflection of life contained in a literary work for readers, especially for English Literature students, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Studies, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

2) Practically, this research is expected to provide readers with an understanding of racial discrimination and the condition of humans experiencing violence. This research is also expected to be a reference for English Literature students, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Studies, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

The researcher has tried to search some research that has the same idea and theories in this research; the researcher finds some prior research that are relevant to this research. The first research is a paper that has same theory yet different on the object, the paper is written by Laurel B. Watson, et al. (2008) Entitled “How Do Feminist-Identified Women Cope with Discrimination? A Feminist Standpoint and Grounded Theory Study” With using grounded theory and the methodology of the intersectional feminist point of view, in this study, Laurela B. Watson, et. Al. Trying to understand the ways identified by feminist women to address discrimination. They found that feminist identities and women's cultures intersect, each informing the other and influencing the mechanisms and overcoming well-being. In addition, the results show that feminist women call for different coping mechanisms in response discrimination, including advocacy, social support, self-care, cognitive processes, detachment, linking to one's femininity, and religion and spirituality. The relationship between the research and the research of the researcher lies in discussion, namely revealing the attitudes in overcoming discrimination. Those research reveals how overcome discrimination by feminist women, in research studies disclose the forms of discrimination against women characters in *Ten Things I Hate About Me*.

The second review has similar researcher written by Nicholas D. Spence, et.al. (2016) with the title is Racial Discrimination, Cultural Resilience, and Stress. The uses of resilience compensation model, the study revealed that cultural resilience can offset stress levels resulting from Aboriginal racial

discrimination. In addition, a specific non-Aboriginal source of resilience, social support, is prominent in reducing stress. And it can be concluded that cultural resilience compensates for the adverse effects of racial discrimination on stress in a simple way. The relevance of the research with the research of researchers lies in the topic that is disclosed, namely discrimination. Nicholas reveals 18 racial discriminations in reality, the researcher reveals racial discrimination against Muslim minorities in the novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me*.

Another relevant literature review is "Analysis of Racism in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eyes* Novel" by Patihahuwan (2008). Pattihahuwan uses Wellek and Warren's mimesis theory in their book. The entitled *Theory of Literature* (1979) to find facts about social problems in a literary work. He explains the image of racism to people who are born black that can be seen in the story. He concluded that racism in *The Bluest Eyes* was the biggest problem in society. Those theories used by researchers in the discussion that is disclosed, namely discrimination. Patihahuwan's research discusses discrimination against women of color, the researcher discuss discrimination against minorities more broadly.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

The researcher chose the Social Identity theory from Henry Tajfel, because according to the researcher the Social Identity theory proposed by Henry Tajfel is in accordance with the phenomena found by researchers in the field. The Social Identity Theory proposed by Henry Tajfel does not implicitly



discuss the process of forming a social identity within a group, but rather explains how various components are able to influence a social identity within a group. The term is usually used to describe an action of the dominant majority party in relation to a weak minority, so that it can be said that their behavior is immoral or undemocratic.

Generally, social identity is not formed instantaneously. It has a long process to be able to put together the parts that they need to put together as a unified whole. Social identity is needed for those who feel they have not fully become themselves in the sense that they are still experiencing a phase of identity crisis that makes them indecisive about the identity they really want. Hence, in social identity theory, a social identity is a person's knowledge that he or she belongs to a social category or group (Hogg and Abrams 1988). Here, a social group a set of individuals who hold a common social identification, or view themselves as member of the same social category. Also, a social group has its own power to show an identity that he has previously identified to form large-scale social groups (Stets and Burke, 2000).

However, individuals need to go through several layers to get into these social groups; in the sense that individuals or categories in this environment need to first decipher which identity he will use to enter the social group. In case, the search process takes a lot of time to be able to stand alone without any frills from the identity that he or she has brought as he lives in an environment that has many dimensions to be able to adapt and at the same



time survive in his circle of life. However, to reach the formation of social identity according to his version, intertwined questions come to a person where that person is looking for his identity. In summary, the identity crisis in the novel *'Ten Things I Hate About Me'* shows that the main character experiences many symptoms; Jamilah wanted a real identity to attach to her. Nevertheless, Jamilah used her preferences to save herself from her racist environment due to the lack of acceptance of people who came into contact with the biggest terrorist figures at the time. Moreover, the identity crisis faced by Jamilah is so complex that she is trapped in a toxic environment.

Baumeister, Shapiro, and Tice (1985) stated that there are two kinds of identity crises: identity deficit and identity conflict. Firstly, is identity deficit or motivation crisis referring to the problem caused by inadequately defined self (Baumeister et al, 1985, p. 408). Baumeister added his argument that Identity conflict or legitimation conflict refers to the problem of the multiply defined self whose definitions have become incompatible.

Here, the identity crisis experienced by Jamilah is that she changes her identity from the previous one. For instance, she hides her identity from the religion in order to not show that she is a Muslim. And she has to do it so that she lives more comfortably. This is one example of the identity crisis defined by Baumeister et al, (1985). This category is included in the identity conflict where Jamilah has a conflict with herself and her surroundings so that it makes her feel less about her identity which is only about the problem of definition according to her social group. This makes Jamilah incomplete in building her

identity and always lacks a definition that fits her group.

In addition, when she shows her real identity, she usually experiences problems with her identity carries, such as getting oppressed and discriminated against. The impact is very negative if that identity is raised. The reason Jamilah hides her identity in her new environment is to adapt to the identity groups around her, which the majority view Muslims as terrorists and makers and essentially it is dangerous if Muslims are in that environment.

This research focus on racial discrimination on the novel of *Ten Things I Hate About Me* is a process of identity crisis or the search for identity to survive racial discrimination. So that the researcher put the identity crisis as part of the racial discrimination. And for racism itself. In my opinion, there is also concern, although it is not dominant, but it also pays attention to this problem.

In summarize, according Henry Tajfel's theory has a correlation with the novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. According to Tajfel (1982), social identity is part of a person's self-concept that comes from their knowledge of membership in a social group along with the value and emotional significance of that membership. Social identity is the knowledge possessed by a group member in his group that considered in accordance with the identity that exists in that place. Well, if we look in the novel, *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. Jamilah is in a toxic or racist environment, so she needs to replace her real identity with a fake one to save herself from the harsh environment. So, Jamilah's social identity is in the form of a fake identity where she gets the

effect of a group/environment. On an individual scale, Jamilah changes her identity in such a way so as not to be recognized by others because the impact she shows on her true identity will have a bad or unsafe impact on Jamilah.

## **1.7 Method of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of research**

This research was conducted with a qualitative research type and produced descriptive data. According to Sugiyono (2014) qualitative descriptive research is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism used to examine natural objects. This study will describe the discrimination of the majority against minorities in *Ten Things I Hate About Me* by Randa Abdel.

This research is aimed to focus on the descriptive of the discrimination of the majority against minorities where a Muslim minority in the Middle East "WOG" is discriminated against so that it causes disguises so that they do not look like Muslims. So, the researcher uses a qualitative method by describing the data that the researcher obtains from the results of a study.

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

The researcher uses two sources, primary and secondary. The primary data is taken from *Ten Things I Hate About Me*, data from this novel describes the discrimination of the majority against minorities. The secondary data is chosen from other data which contain the information and ideas about the concepts that the

researcher needs to analyzed, the data are also from (e-books, journals, graduation papers, and other related sources).

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

In collecting data, the researcher focuses on conversations or parts that contain elements of racial discrimination and are depicted in the story. Then, the writer looks at the points related to discrimination in each part to be elaborated in this research.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses an intrinsic approach and an extrinsic approach to describing discrimination in *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. Intrinsic approach is used to analyze the whole story based on themes, characters, settings. The extrinsic approach is used to describes the relationship between literary works and social aspects in terms of discrimination.

## **1.8 Paper Organization**

This research paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of the research. This chapter contains the background of study, problem statement, objective of study, significance of study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. Chapter two deals with intrinsic elements of *Ten Things I hate About me*.

The third chapter shows the discussion and analysis of the novel using the theory. The final chapter consists of the conclusion from the analysis and suggestions for the future researcher



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the researcher concludes the self-identity crisis done by Jamilah's portrayed inside the story. Using the concept of identity originating from the group to which the person belongs to Henry Tajfel, the researcher finds the issue of self-identity crisis in the novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me* cannot be separated from human lives. Therefore, the identity crisis faced by very diverse people is not always bad, but there are also positive impacts when the problem is resolved.

Basically, Jamilah is a woman who fights for her social identity in the middle of racist and discriminatory people. The racism she got when he first moved from Lebanon to Australia. Because according to white people, Lebanese people are a place for terrorists to nest and must be wary of all forms of identity. This makes Jamilah doubt her true identity. She hates herself and at the same time the identity she carries because the identity turns out to be important when someone is in a place full of poison in their social life. To trick this condition, Jamilah changed her identity from her physical form and language style as if she was invisible from the east. The decision was made unanimously, considering that her friends were very different in the school and Jamilah was concerned about the identity crisis that she was experiencing due to the stereotypes that people saw her as a close relative of Osama Bin Laden.

In the novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. Jamilah has several reasons to

hide her identity in the racist environment around, especially her friends at school such as circle of Peter who is a prominent figure in her racist treatment of Jamilah's friends. Meanwhile, Jamilah projects herself as a fake in the sense that she doesn't become herself when meeting anyone other than her family and closest friends. He has certain limits when using a certain identity so that he is always awake. And Jamilah is like playing on a stage where she plays an acting queen which is a big theme in this novel.

In this case, the identity crisis experienced by Jamilah made her trapped in an isolated environment due to various problems that she was unable to solve on her own. Meanwhile, Jamilah wants to change the stereotype about her identity crisis. She feels uncomfortable when she doesn't use her real identity, but if she looks at the context at that time she is in a dilemma when using her real identity and decides to use a new identity and make it a mask to adapt to the current situation. She has to act like a professional actor so that it doesn't appear that she is pretending in social life.

#### **4.2 Suggestions**

After finishing this research, the researcher realizes that this research still needs improvement to make it better. However, this research is also expected to have a positive impact on literary research. The researcher expects the readers to be more aware of the self-identity crisis issue, especially in the surrounding environment, which is still seen as a racist and discriminatory environment by people in general. Therefore, the researcher hopes for the next researcher to explore further the other issues in the novel *Ten Things I Hate About Me*. This



story can be analyzed by future researchers using other theories such as psychology, identity, semiotics, and orientalism theory.



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