

KAMALA'S SELF-IDENTITY CRISIS AS SEEN IN *MS. MARVEL'S COMICS*

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Department



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ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT

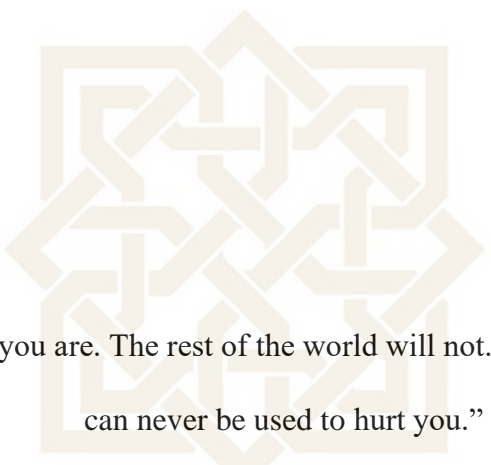
FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SUNAN KALIJAGA

YOGYAKARTA

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MOTTO



“Never forget what you are. The rest of the world will not. Wear it like armor, and it can never be used to hurt you.”

Tyrion Lannister



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My family,

My friends,

My better half,

And myself



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Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

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ABSTRACT

In some comics, adolescents, as the main characters, are described as having a problem regarding their authentic self-identity. The issues are close to the character's transition from adolescence to adulthood. Kamala Khan, the protagonist, experiences confusion assuming the role of a human being who lives in society. Kamala Khan views the distinction between the two choices as a significant sign of her identity crisis. As a teenager who rejects her parents' teachings and chooses to be a superhero or adhere to her parents, then becomes a submissive teenager through Eastern culture. This research is qualitative descriptive research. The theory used in this research is Erik Erikson's psychological theory which focuses on identity crisis. This research aims to determine the form of identity crisis and how adolescents who experience it can cope with the identity crisis depicted in *Ms. Marvel's comics*. The factor that caused Kamala Khan's identity crisis was her family. Kamala shares some forms of identity crisis. First was the cultural identity crisis where Kamala becomes a teenage girl who does not comply with her Eastern culture. Then Religion, as a form of an identity crisis, causes disobedience to her parent's words. And then last is the femininity crisis that she experiences makes Kamala's traits seem masculine. Finally, Kamala copes with her identity crisis by doing hobbies such as reading comics, writing fan fiction, and watching movies. After gaining her powers, Kamala tried to deepen and control them. The second way was to become a superhero who fights crime and helps needy people.

Keywords: *Identity Crisis, Adolescents, Superheroes, Ms. Marvel*

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ABSTRAK

Dalam beberapa komik, remaja sebagai karakter utama digambarkan memiliki masalah mengenai identitas diri. Permasalahan yang muncul tidak jauh dari transisi karakter dari masa remaja ke masa dewasa. Kamala Khan, sang tokoh utama, mengalami kebingungan dalam menjalani peran sebagai manusia yang hidup di kehidupan sosial. Kamala Khan memandang perbedaan antara dua pilihan sebagai tanda utama bahwa dia mengalami krisis identitas, yaitu sebagai remaja yang menolak ajaran orang tuanya dan memilih untuk menjadi superhero atau patuh pada orang tuanya dan menjadi perempuan yang taat dengan nilai-nilai budaya timur. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori psikologi Erik Erikson yang berfokus pada krisis identitas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bentuk krisis identitas, dan bagaimana remaja yang mengalaminya dapat mengatasi krisis identitas yang digambarkan dalam komik *Ms. Marvel*. terdapat beberapa bentuk krisis identitas yang dialami oleh Kamala. Bentuk krisis identitas yang dialami oleh Kamala adalah Krisis identitas budaya di mana Kamala menjadi seorang gadis remaja yang tidak taat dengan budaya timur. Kemudian Agama sebagai bentuk krisis identitas yang menyebabkan ketidakpatuhan Kamala terhadap perkataan orang tuanya. Terakhir adalah krisis feminitas yang dialaminya membuat sifat Kamala cenderung maskulin. Selanjutnya, cara Kamala untuk mengatasi krisis identitasnya adalah dengan mendalami hobi seperti membaca komik, menulis fanfiction, dan menonton film. Setelah mendapatkan kekuatannya, Kamala mencoba untuk memperdalam dan mengendalikannya. Cara kedua adalah dengan menjadi seorang superhero yang memberantas kejahatan dan menolong orang-orang yang membutuhkan.

Kata kunci: *Krisis Identitas, Remaja, Pahlawan super, Ms. Marvel*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

Literature is a representation used to describe human life. The reason is that Literature is created by social interaction in daily life. Taylor said, "Literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is, an act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experience "(1981: 1). literature itself is a medium for the author to deliver their imaginative ideas. It becomes imaginative because the author creatively presents the phenomenon based on the author's ideas and personal experiences. Literature is 'imaginative' writing in the sense of fiction – writing which is not true (Eagleton, 1996: 1).

Various issues in social life, such as economic, political, and cultural disputes, are commonly described in the Literature. One example of an exciting topic in a work of Literature is a character's journey to seek the importance of their existence as a human. In some comics, adolescents, as the main characters, are described as having a problem regarding their authentic self-identity. The issues arise from the character's transition from adolescence to adulthood. Also, social factors like parenting methods and the multicultural society portrayed in the comic commonly play a part in how challenging for characters to develop their sense of self-identity. The comic is a series of adjacent drawn images, usually arranged horizontally, designed to be read as a

narrative or a chronological sequence. The story is usually original in this form. Words may be introduced within or near each image, or they may be dispensed with altogether. If words functionally dominate the image, it becomes merely an illustration of a text.

In this research, the researcher uses *Ms. Marvel's* comic book. This comic tells the story of Kamala Khan as a superhero called Ms. Marvel. Kamala Khan is a Muslim Pakistani-American teen from New Jersey. She possesses latent Inhuman ancestry that the Terrigen Bomb activated. She became a polymorph after being exposed to the Terrigen Mist, with the ability to stretch her body in almost any imaginable way. Kamala was a vast superheroes fan, especially the former Ms. Marvel, Carol Danvers. She ended up becoming the brand-new Ms. Marvel identity holder. Kamala Khan, the daughter of Yusuf Khan and Muneeba Khan, was born in Jersey City. Her parents and older brother, Aamir Khan, moved from Karachi, Pakistan, to America. Kamala met Nakia Bahadir in kindergarten, and she went on to become Kamala's best friend. Nakia, like Kamala, was an immigrant's daughter and a practicing Muslim.

This comic needs to be studied because Kamala Khan, the protagonist, experiences confusion assuming the role of a human being who lives in the world. As a woman who rejects her parents' teachings and chooses to be a superhero who fights criminals or adheres to her parents, then becomes a submissive woman through Eastern teachings. Kamala Khan views the distinction between the two choices as a significant sign of her identity crisis. The identity crisis can be seen in how she hides her heroic identity from her family. Kamala Khan herself commonly acts like a boy at home with his family, playing video games, reading superhero comics, and writing superhero

fanfic on websites. And on several occasions, Kamala sneaks out of her home through her bedroom window to transform into a superhero who saves people and fights against crime.

In the comic book "*Ms. Marvel*," Kamala Khan struggles with questions about her true identity and how she wants to fit into a multicultural society. The main character, Kamala Khan, depicts a complex journey from an ordinary teenager to a superhero with unique abilities. This transformation may appear to be a story of superpowers and battles against villains on the surface. However, underlying it all is a deeper conflict caused by cultural expectations and Kamala Khan's desires. The issue of Kamala Khan's self-identity is crucial in this context. The main focus of her character's journey is how she should reconcile her family's beliefs, culture, and personal aspirations. This leads to the problem statement at the heart of this analysis: "How does Kamala Khan confront and resolve her identity crisis in the comic '*Ms. Marvel*'?" "How do cultural factors and her surroundings influence Kamala Khan's changing identity?"

This study examines the complex changes in Kamala Khan's character using Erikson's psychological theory of identity crisis. This analysis explains how Kamala Khan navigates her internal conflicts and takes steps to discover the true meaning of her identity. As a human, understanding the role or taking part in society is the way to find the purpose of life. Each person on earth is different to each other. It is because complicated factors, such as traits, characteristics, mindset, ethnicity, religion, race, and other factors, shape a person. The term representing self-images of a person which

cannot be obtained from a person, people, or community is called identity. According to Erikson, "The term 'identity' expresses such a mutual relation in that it connotes both a persistent sameness within oneself (selfsameness) and a persistent sharing of some kind of essential character with others" (Erikson, 1980: 109).

People eventually go through what is known as the identity crisis as they develop their identities and develop a sense of self. It is common when a person begins to doubt his identity and morals. In other words, rather than exploring his identity subconsciously, the person starts analyzing various perspectives on himself in depth. When experiencing an identity crisis, separating their identity is complicated. People must go through some phases of an identity crisis before learning more about and understanding their identity. When people notice the word "crisis" for the first time, they often get negative thoughts about the "crisis" term. In actuality, an individual's identity crisis is not always dire because it is a phase that each person eventually experiences to seek self-identity. According to Erikson (Erikson 1968: 16), the crisis is now recognized as a crucial turning point when development has to shift in one direction or another, mobilizing resources for growth, recovery, and further differentiation. In other words, identity crises are inevitable in people's lives. One stage of a person's development to reach a higher level of psychosocial development can be described as a crisis concerning their sense of identity.

Adolescence is a time of preparation for adulthood, so it is when identity crises usually happen (Erikson, 1968: 17). adolescents frequently consider what they want to do with their lives when they grow up. This crisis motivates Adolescents to start

thinking about and forming their identities. Adolescents will naturally begin seeking the answers to those questions once they arrive at the phase of an identity crisis. According to their fantasies, adolescents will naturally involve in some exploration and discovery to discover the real meaning of identity from both the things and people around them. It is a condition in which they form their perceptions and decisions based on what they desire and believe without considering reality, logic, evidence, or the assumptions of others. Adolescents who are going through it need ongoing guidance to support them in handling their identity crisis. Presenting guidance, however, may be challenging because adolescents going through identity crises often seem ignorant of any advice against their desires.

1.2. Research Question

1. What are the forms of Kamala's self-identity crisis in *Ms. Marvel's comic*?
2. How does Kamala cope with her self-identity crisis in *Ms. Marvel's comic*?

1.3. Objective of Study

This study aims to examine Kamala Khan's character development in depth, overcoming her identity crisis in the comic strip *Ms. Marvel*. This study aims to investigate the critical elements of Kamala Khan's changing identities, which are affected by cultural, environmental, and internal tensions, using Erikson's psychological theory of identity crisis. The researcher analyzes explicitly the main character, Kamala Khan, as an individual who has successfully resolved the identity crisis she experienced.

1.4. Significances of Study

The researcher divides the significance of the study into two categories in this study: theoretical and practical. This study can be a reference for students, lecturers, and other researchers interested in identity crisis issues. Practically, the researcher expects that this study will be helpful to the next researcher or anyone interested in using identity crises theory to analyze a comic. The researcher also aims that this research will benefit the English Department by providing information on how to apply ideas. This research also seeks to understand the ways a literary medium like comics can access societal issues such as identity, multiculturalism, and demographic change will also be facilitated by this analysis. It illustrates how the challenges of individuals within a real society are reflected in fictional characters.

1.5. Literature Review

After searching the internet and the university library, the researcher found one research with the same object but had different issues. There are also many identity crisis issues in some graduating papers and journals.

First is a journal by Ashika Prajnya Paramita titled *Ms. Marvel As A Representation of The Struggle for American Identity*, published in February 2016. The paper discusses the significance of the *Ms. Marvel comic book series* in the struggle of Muslim immigrants to survive as a minority group in the United States. The series serves as a communication medium for the under-represented American Muslim community. Kamala Khan's popularity reflects the changing image of Muslims in the

predominantly Judeo-Christian American society. Furthermore, by accepting the new superhero, American society has also transformed and is beginning to adapt to the idea that Muslim immigrants are members of their community. Understanding the American Muslim immigrant identity resulting from this research can be used to understand similar phenomena concerning other minority groups in the United States or different contexts. The paper concludes that the *Ms. Marvel comic book series* is significant in the struggle of Muslim immigrants to assert their identity in American society. The series serves as a communication medium for the under-represented American Muslim community. Kamala Khan's popularity reflects the changing image of Muslims in the predominantly Judeo-Christian American society. The paper also suggests that accepting the new Ms. Marvel, who defies the traditional standards of superheroes, shows that American society has started changing the prevailing sentiments against Muslims. It is beginning to adapt to the idea that Muslim immigrants are members of their community.

The second one was written by Ayu Fitri Kusumaningrum Universitas Gadjah Mada and published in 2019, titled *Krisis Identitas dalam Cerpen "A Pair of Jeans"* by Qaisra Shahraz. The paper discusses the phenomenon of multiculturalism and its impact on the identity crisis. Multiculturalism is the process of mixing and meeting two or more cultures, which reflects modern society. The paper focuses on the identity crisis faced by the character Miriam, a Muslim Pakistani woman living in England, as depicted in the contemporary literary work "*A Pair of Jeans*" by Qaisra Shahraz. The paper uses the post-colonial analysis method of Homi K. Bhabha to explore the process

of cultural hybridity and mimicry, which can lead to ambivalence and identity crises. The paper concludes that multiculturalism can lead to an identity crisis due to cultural hybridity and mimicry. The character Miriam in “*A Pair of Jeans*” exemplifies this crisis. The post-colonial analysis method of Homi K. Bhabha is used to explore the ambivalence and identity crisis that can arise from cultural mixing. The paper suggests that cultural hybridity and mimicry can lead to a reevaluation of colonial identity and a necessary deformation and displacement of all sites of discrimination and domination.

The following paper is from Andi Jaihtan Silitonga and Ismaniar Ambarita from the University of Darma Agung, titled “*Self-Identity Crisis in Trisha Ashley’s Every Woman for Herself*,” published in 2020. The paper discusses the self-identity crisis in Trisha Ashley’s novel “*Every Woman for Herself*.” The focus is on the main character’s self-identity crisis’s causes, impacts, and coping mechanisms. The paper uses a combination of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches, including psychological theory, to analyze the novel. The researcher also reads supportive material from the internet and other books related to the story. The paper aims to educate readers on how divorce influences self-identity and portrays characters in the novel through conversation and plot. The paper’s findings show that the main character’s self-identity crisis is caused by her bad experiences in life, such as being single at forty and being labeled a murderess. The impacts of the problem are seen in Charlie’s sadness and inability to accept love and move on from her past. The paper also highlights the potential adverse effects of self-identity crises on individuals’ social lives.

The following Paper is from Miladia Nuraini, titled “*The Identity Crisis of Ali as Portrayed in Ali’s Wedding,*” published in 2021. The paper explores the identity crisis experienced by Ali, a Muslim immigrant in Australia, during his adolescence. Ali faces expectations from his parents and the conservative society around him and a cultural clash between his Middle Eastern and Australian identities. The research utilizes identity development theory by Erik Erikson, identity status theory by James Marcia, and movie theory by Villarejo to analyze Ali's identity crisis. It is found that Ali experiences identity confusion, and this can be explained through three identity statuses: identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. The research also highlights the significant influence of social context on Ali's identity formation. The paper’s results indicate that Ali experienced an identity crisis during his adolescence, as portrayed in the movie *Ali's Wedding* (2017). Ali, a Muslim immigrant in Australia, faces conflicting expectations from his parents and the conservative society around him. He also encounters a cultural clash between his Middle Eastern and Australian identities. The research identifies three identity statuses that explain Ali's identity crisis: identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. It is found that Ali experiences identity confusion as he explores different roles to find his true identity. The research also highlights the significant influence of social context on Ali's identity formation.

The paper titled "*Social Power as Seen in Marvel Comic's Ms. Marvel*" by Adityo Darmadi, published in Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University in 2021, explores the concept of social power in the context of *the Marvel Comic's Ms. Marvel*, which

features a Muslim teenage girl named Kamala Khan with the ability to change her body shape. The research aims to identify the types of social power Kamala Khan uses and analyze why she uses them. The study utilizes French and Raven's theory of the bases of power and incorporates a comic approach to enhance the analysis. Qualitative methods are employed in the research. The findings reveal that Kamala Khan utilizes reward, coercive, and legitimate power while not using other types of social power such as informational, expert, and referent power. The research concludes that social power is necessary even for individuals with superpowers, as physical strength alone cannot achieve everything.

The following paper is a thesis from Ashfiya Arraihan titled Identity Crisis Experienced by Amir in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* published in 2022. This text discusses the representation of identity crisis in the novel "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. The study uses the theory of identity and identity crisis by Baumeister, Saphiro, and Tice to help analyze the data. The research findings suggest that Amir's crisis is identified as an identity deficit, which is an identity crisis characterized by a lack of commitment. Amir struggled with identity deficits in adolescence and mid-life. The causes of the adolescent crisis include Amir's ambivalence towards his father and his cognitive advance.

Meanwhile, in mid-life, it is caused by the inadequacy of Amir's existing commitment. In resolving the identity deficit crisis, Amir has to undergo two steps. The first step is fixing the value issue, where Amir needs to gather and select a primary value to form an abstract image of the goal. The second step is resolving the

instrumental issue where Amir must choose the possible way to achieve his goal, which is the most compatible with his value and condition. Once Amir settles on one, he starts putting it into action, which completes the identity deficit resolution.

What comes next is a paper titled *Identity Crisis and Alienation in The Metamorphosis: Existential Approach* by Febri Quindadiarto, published in 2022. The document discusses the philosophy of existentialism, which is concerned with human freedom and the individual's real identity. It explores the concept of multiple identities and how they can lead to confusion about one's true identity. The paper also discusses the two forms of existence, authentic and inauthentic, and how individuals can become alienated from their factual reality due to societal pressures. The report aims to reveal how society influenced the main character in Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* to experience an identity crisis and the relation between identity crisis and alienation depicted in the novel. The paper concludes that the main character in *The Metamorphosis*, Gregor Samsa, experiences an identity crisis and separation due to societal pressures. His transformation into an insect leads to confusion about his true identity and societal alienation. The paper highlights the importance of individual freedom and the negative impact of societal pressures on an individual's sense of self.

The last one is the paper by Muntazir Ahmad and Saima Batool titled *Probing into Identity Crisis In "Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed" Short Story* published in 2022. The article is about a post-colonial study of Ray Bradbury's short story "*Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed*." The story is about an American family who travels from Earth to Mars and faces identity issues as they gradually become Martian citizens. The

paper explores the case of identity in the post-colonial world and how theorists viewed and presented their ideas about constructing identity in immigrants from countries who suffered from facing the Diasporas and the dilemma of the difficulty of growing their identity. The paper investigates post-colonial novelists, especially in the novel “*Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed*,” and applies post-colonial theories to the story. Different aspects and elements of Post Colonialism have been described in the research to explore the Post Colonialism presented in the novel, like ambivalence, racism, otherness, and hybridity. The paper concludes that the issue of identity is a significant concern in the post-colonial world, and post-colonial theorists have presented their ideas about constructing identity in immigrants from countries who suffered from facing the Diasporas and the dilemma of the difficulty of growing their identity. The paper investigates post-colonial novelists, especially in the novel “*Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed*,” and applies post-colonial theories to the story. The report explores different aspects and elements of Post Colonialism, like ambivalence, racism, otherness, and hybridity, to understand the Post Colonialism presented in the novel. The paper highlights the importance of understanding the complexities of identity issues in the post-colonial world.

The similarity of this research with the previous research is that this research uses psychological theory by Erik and analyzes the identity crisis of specific characters. The difference between this research and the previous research lay in the object of research. This study is about Kamala, a character in *the Ms. Marvel comics* who's been through an identity crisis. This study examines how a person's culture, religion, and ethnicity

influence her identity formation. This would provide an opportunity to look at how literature can describe the complexity of identity and internal conflicts that could arise in a multicultural environment.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

To analyze this paper, the researcher employs the theory of psychology by Erik Erikson. This research aims to examine the identity crisis experienced by Kamala Khan in *the Ms. Marvel comic*. The researcher will focus on the Kamala self-identity crisis.

1.6.1. Background of Erikson and Identity Crisis Theory

Erikson developed his theory of identity crisis in response to his personal experiences. Erikson was born in Germany to a Jewish woman. His stepfather, who also gave him a name, raised him. Erikson himself struggled with self-identification. He was fascinated with the emergence of personality and individuality while studying psychoanalysis with Anna Freud, Sigmund Freud's daughter. He had visited other cultures, such as the Sioux in South Dakota and the Yurok in California, where he had observed how they developed a sense of self.

Erikson proposed an eight-stage psychosocial development theory, each stage marked by an identity crisis or other source of conflict. He believed that identity is not unchanging but changes as time passes. He said identity was a shared perception of the world and a personal sense of continuity and consistency. He also introduced the concept of ego identity, the awareness of oneself that develops through social interaction.

The process of identity formation is involved. At this stage, adolescents develop a strong sense of identity and loyalty, or the capacity to be reliable and devoted to others and themselves. They will be uncertain about their roles and insecure when they fail this stage. And Erikson did acknowledge, however, that at some point in life, there can be an identity crisis, such as adolescence, late adulthood, or older age. In these stages, various aspects of life are involved in the identity crisis, such as intimacy, generativity, and integrity. Integration of identity is to accept and stick to one person's identified identity, resolving the conflicts and doubts that may develop while forming an identity.

Erikson's theory asserts that individuals experience developmental stages as they mature and progress. Each step presents a developmental conflict that must be resolved to cultivate that stage's principal virtue successfully. Erikson was intrigued by the impact of social interaction and relationships on growth and development. Adolescents may feel perplexed or insecure about themselves and their place in society as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Teens may experiment with various roles, activities, and behaviors to establish a sense of self. According to Erikson, this is critical to building a solid identity and a sense of direction in life. Although the identity crisis is most acute during adolescence and gives that age its name, identity concerns remain a lifelong issue.

Significant role changes, such as when first-year college students leave home for the first time and must make their own decisions, may commonly result in redefining one's ego-identity. Other factors that tend to renew identity concerns

include one's first job, marriage, parenthood, losing one's parents, divorce, unemployment, serious illness, widowhood, and retirement. The ability to cope with these subsequent identity issues arising from significant changes in one's life roles may depend on the extent to which one has successfully navigated the adolescent identity crisis or even adulthood. In this analysis, the author opts to employ Erikson's theory to investigate the issue of an identity crisis.

In every condition of human life, an identity crisis may arise when facing life's challenges. It can stem from negative experiences, events, adolescence, role confusion in social situations, romantic relationships, and feeling disconnected from society due to one's perception of oneself. Erikson posits that identity represents a person's illustration of themselves, their characteristics, and how they view themselves accurately. To provide a better understanding, identity crisis has distinct features, such as:

1. Role confusion. During adolescence or even adulthood, individuals may experience role confusion. This can lead to questioning individuals' identity and potential, causing feelings of insecurity about individuals' life.
2. Feels isolated. When facing an identity crisis, individuals may feel isolated and fear rejection, such as being turned down or experiencing a breakup. Rejection can be particularly painful and damaging to our egos.

3. Doubtful. An identity crisis can lead individuals to doubt that their life has a purpose. This can make finding comfort within oneself and the outside world challenging.

Overall, experiencing an identity crisis can result in confusion, hopelessness, and a lack of self-awareness. It is common for individuals to question their sense of identity, purpose, and societal roles. During this phase, it is crucial for those experiencing such feelings to promptly acknowledge and address them to avoid any adverse repercussions of the identity crisis.

1.6.2. The Causes of Identity Crisis

Once in a human's life, there may arise a time when they feel insecure and question their own identity. They may ponder who they are, what they aspire to become, and what path they should take. This type of situation is an identity crisis, which occurs due to various reasons that cause insecurity in the human mind or soul. According to Erik Erikson, several reasons contribute to the occurrence of an identity crisis.:

1. The person's psychology may lead them to perceive themselves as worthless.
2. Adolescence is when a person undergoes an identity crisis as they endeavor to determine their place and role in society at present and in the future.

3. The values instilled by one's parents may impact how they perceive their treatment by their family. The unfavorable treatment may result in decreased confidence, apathy, and a sense of aimlessness that may influence their personality and social life.

4. Negative experiences, such as a traumatic event or a past that evokes fear, can significantly impact an individual's sense of identity and make them question their worth. Divorce, the transition from childhood to adulthood, being alienated due to an accident, and societal treatment are some examples of such experiences.

Most research suggests that individuals who experience identity crises, particularly those who have navigated and successfully resolved them, exhibit superior attributes across multiple dimensions. It is not uncommon for people to question the purpose and meaning of their existence, and such inquiries can lead to a state of confusion known as an identity crisis.

1.6.3. Identity Formation and Identity Integration

Identity formation and integration are two essential processes in Erikson's theory of psychosocial development. They involve exploring and committing to one's sense of self across different domains of life, such as vocation, religion, politics, sexuality, and culture.

Identity formation is trying out different identities and ways of being. It usually occurs during adolescence, the fifth stage of Erikson's theory. In this stage,

the central conflict is between identity and confusion. Adolescents must find their identity while avoiding the pressure to conform to others' expectations. Identity formation can be challenging and confusing, but it can also be exciting and rewarding.

Identity integration is accepting and committing to one's chosen identity. It involves resolving the conflicts and doubts that may arise during identity formation. It can happen in later stages of Erikson's theory, such as young adulthood, middle adulthood, or late adulthood. In these stages, the main conflicts are between intimacy and isolation, generativity and stagnation, and integrity and despair. Identity integration can provide a sense of stability, confidence, and purpose.

1.7. Method of Research

1.7.1. Data Sources

This Research includes both primary and secondary data. *Ms. Marvel's* comic book, volume 1 and Volume 2, is the primary source of information for this research. Using *Ms. Marvel's* comic books volume 1 and volume 2 because Kamala's journey to find her identity ends in volume 2. The data unit of this research is the indicator that depicts the identity crisis attributes in Kamala Khan's character by recognizing the signs, actions, and myths in the *Ms. Marvel* comic book. The data unit of this research indicates the identity crises in Kamala Khan's character by identifying the sign, actions, and myths in *Ms. Marvel's* comic book. Then, the

secondary data for this research comes from reviews, journals, websites, articles, books, and other critical works relating to this comic.

1.7.2. Data Collection Technique

To obtain the data, the researcher uses observational research techniques. First, the researcher reads *Ms. Marvel's* comic book to identify and characterize the comic's intrinsic components, such as topic, character and characterization, setting, and storyline. The researcher organizes the data into categories and eliminates the data that does not support the analysis based on the hypothesis that the researcher used the forms of Kamala's self-identity crisis and how Kamala copes with her self-identity crisis in *Ms. Marvel's comics*. In addition, the researcher gathers some supporting data to analyze the research in greater depth.

1.7.3. Data Analysis Technique

The researcher used the psychological theory by Erik Erikson and focused on identity crisis as a significant theory in this research. The descriptive qualitative approach is used to analyze the data in this research. To analyze the data, the researcher uses many steps. First, the researcher looks for acts, signs, and myths that indicate an identity crisis based on the categories derived from the abovementioned measurement and categorization. Second, the researcher interprets them and describes the relation between the data not mentioned above and the relevant data discovered when evaluating the data.

1.8. Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter consists of the background of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, significance of the study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of this comic such as the theme, character and characterization, setting, and plot. The third chapter analyzes the problem in this research using the psychological theory by Erik Erikson of an identity crisis. The last chapter is the conclusion of the study.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

Kamala's parents were immigrants from Pakistan. Kamala's parents rigorously raised her as a family with an Eastern cultural background. They did not want Kamala to become someone who abandoned her culture and religion. This led to several forms of identity crisis experienced by Kamala. Some conditions of the identity crisis experienced by Kamala are Cultural identity crisis, where Kamala becomes a teenage girl who does not comply with her Eastern culture. Then Religion is a form of identity crisis that causes disobedience to her parent's words. The last is the femininity crisis that she experiences makes Kamala's nature tend to be masculine. Finally, Kamala's way to cope with her identity crisis was first by doing hobbies such as reading comics, writing fan fiction, and watching movies. After gaining her powers, Kamala tried to deepen and control them. The second way was to become a superhero who eradicates crime and helps people in need.

4.2. Suggestion

After analyzing the data taken from the *Ms. Marvel* comic, researchers realized that this *Ms. Marvel* comic is a comic story based on concerns and relates to teenage life. This research focuses on Kamala Khan's journey as a teenager who experiences an identity crisis. This comic can undoubtedly take several specific topics to analyze. With a relatable but easy story for readers, this comic can be discussed with particular

issues such as female masculinity, hero journey, even post-colonial theory, and various other theories.



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