

**AMINA'S IDENTITY CRISIS AS PORTRAYED IN HENA KHAN'S
AMINA'S VOICE (2017)**

A GRADUATING PAPER

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor
Degree in English Department**



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2024

MOTTO

“No one will reap except what they sow.”

- Q.S Al-An'am: 164

“With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

“Everything will be all right in the end. If it's not all right, then it's not yet the end.”

- Dev Patel



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

1. My beloved self, who always fight and never give up.
2. My beloved family, my parents, my older sister, and my younger brother,
who always there beside me and give me enthusiasm and motivation.
3. My grandmother who always gives me good advice.
4. All of my friends who has shared laughter and happiness with me.
5. All my dearest lecturers in English Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga
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kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatian Bapak Dekan, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb

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FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, August 9th, 2024

The signature,

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a yellow rectangular stamp. The stamp contains the text 'METERAI TEMPEL' and a serial number '50ALX266094663'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Azki Azifa Nabila Zahra
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A large, stylized logo of the State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta is centered in the background. It features a green geometric design with a central vertical element and symmetrical side elements.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

First of all, I would like to say thanks so much to Allah SWT, who has given me such an extraordinary mercies and blessings. Then, sholawat and salam always be given to our prophet Muhammad SAW as the best role for human. Because of His blessing, finally I can finish this graduating paper entitled “Amina’s Identity Crisis as Portrayed in Hena Khan’s *Amina’s Voice* (2017)”.

In this great moment, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the people who means a lot to me, they are as follows:

1. Prof. Noorhaidi, M.A, M.Phill., Ph.D., as the Chancellor of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.
2. Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A, as the Dean of Faculty of Adab and Cultural Science, State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.
3. Dr. Ulyati Retno Sari, S.S., M. Hum., as the Head of English Literature Department of Faculty of Adab and Cultural Science, State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.
4. Harsiwi Fajar Sari, S.S., M.A., as my Academic Advisor in English Literature Department. Thank you so much for guiding me during my study.
5. Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari, S.S., M.A., as my Research Advisor. I would like to say thank you so much for your kindness in helping and supporting me with good support, advice, guidance, and motivation during the process of completing this graduating paper.

6. All of the lecturers in English Literature Department, Dr. Witriani, S.S., M.Hum., Dr. Ening Herniti, M.Hum., Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd., M.Pd., Nisa Syuhda, S.S., M.A., Dr. Danial Hidayatullah, S.S., M.Hum., Dr. Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A., Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd., M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D., Dwi Margo Yuwono, S.Pd., M.Hum., Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum., and others. Thank you for all the precious knowledge and motivation.
7. My beloved parents, Hamami and Dida Farida Oktavida, who always there in my joys and sorrows, always providing support and motivation in every step I take, being a good listener and my most beloved parents in the world.
8. My beloved sister and brother, Adzkia Nadhifa Shafa Zahra and Nazhif Faris Fadhillah Fathurrahman, who always there beside me and give me enthusiasm and motivation.
9. My beloved friends in Hello Jogja Group, thank you for sharing laughter and creating many beautiful moments together during our education in Jogja, hopefully we always remember each other even though we are separated later.
10. My extraordinary friends in KKN 111 Group 118 which we named Cangkurileung, thank you for being a very enjoyable KKN partner, very grateful to have met all of you who made my last years of college feel warmer and more colorful, thank you for all the times and the beautiful moments that we have shared.
11. My friends in Lily Kos, Raysa, Audry, and Umik, thank you for struggling together, sharing the ups and downs about our graduating paper, surviving

and strengthening each other until finally we can finish our graduating paper together.

12. All my friends in chapter 2020, thank you for being good friends.

13. Last but not least, I would like to say thanks so much to myself, thank you for the struggle all this time, very proud of myself who always managed to get through every difficult thing in my life, after many tears fell because of the struggle to complete this graduating paper, finally it can be completed with very satisfying results, Alhamdulillah.

Finally, I realized that nothing is perfect, including this graduating paper. Hopefully, the readers can provide criticism, advice, and suggestion to improve this graduating paper.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.



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AMINA'S IDENTITY CRISIS AS PORTRAYED IN HENA KHAN'S

AMINA'S VOICE (2017)

By: Azki Azifa Nabila Zahra

ABSTRACT

Identity crisis is a time when people explore different roles in an attempt to find their identity. In *Amina's Voice* (2017), Amina is an adolescent who experiences an identity crisis in the process of finding her identity. She is an immigrant from Pakistan living in America, and her status as an immigrant becomes the main factor in her struggle to find her identity. Amina has to face many cultural differences in her community, and it triggers several conflicts in her identity development, which lead her to explore other roles to find an acceptable identity for herself. This research aims to explore Amina's identity process to see whether she could successfully pass this stage or end up in an identity confusion. This qualitative descriptive research uses identity status theory by James E. Marcia. This research found that Amina undergoes both confusion and achievement. The former is evident in her being uncommitted, while the latter is proven by her being committed, and all these can be seen from each component in her identity status. This research found that Amina's confusion is apparent in the diffusion and moratorium statuses, while her achievement is apparent in foreclosure and achievement statuses. However, overall, despite the struggles, Amina has finally achieved an identity built on her own will.

Keywords: *adolescence, identity development, identity crisis, identity status*

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KRISIS IDENTITAS AMINA YANG DIGAMBARKAN DALAM NOVEL

AMINA'S VOICE (2017) KARYA HENA KHAN

Oleh: Azki Azifa Nabila Zahra

ABSTRAK

Krisis identitas adalah masa ketika seseorang mengeksplorasi peran yang berbeda dalam upaya untuk menemukan jati diri mereka. Dalam novel *Amina's Voice* (2017), Amina adalah seorang remaja yang mengalami krisis identitas dalam proses pencarian jati dirinya. Ia adalah seorang imigran dari Pakistan yang tinggal di Amerika, dan statusnya sebagai imigran menjadi faktor utama dalam perjuangannya menemukan jati diri. Amina harus menghadapi banyak perbedaan budaya di lingkungannya, dan hal ini memicu beberapa konflik dalam perkembangan identitasnya, yang membuatnya mengeksplorasi peran-peran lain untuk menemukan identitas yang dapat diterima oleh dirinya sendiri. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi proses identitas Amina untuk melihat apakah ia berhasil melewati tahap tersebut atau justru berakhir dengan kebingungan identitas. Penelitian kualitatif deskriptif ini menggunakan teori status identitas dari James E. Marcia. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa Amina mengalami kebingungan dan pencapaian. Kebingungan dilihat dari tidak adanya komitmen, sedangkan pencapaian dilihat dari adanya komitmen, dan semua itu dilihat dari setiap komponen dalam status identitasnya. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa kebingungan Amina terlihat dari status diffusion dan moratorium, sedangkan pencapaiannya terlihat dari status foreclosure dan achievement. Namun, secara keseluruhan, terlepas dari perjuangannya, Amina pada akhirnya mencapai identitas yang dibangun berdasarkan keinginannya.

Kata kunci: *remaja, perkembangan identitas, krisis identitas, status identitas*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Adolescence is a time when people begin the process of searching for their identity. According to Kroger (2004, p. 1), adolescence seems to be a time when someone is faced with the task of self-definition. The process of searching for identity is usually influenced by the environment and social circumstances. Santrock (2016, p. 148) said that social contexts influence adolescents in their identity development process. One of these social contexts is culture and ethnicity, especially on the issue of cultural and ethnic differences. Usually, cultural and ethnic differences are experienced by an immigrant in a country that certainly has a different culture and ethnicity from the immigrant's home country. This causes immigrants to become a minority group because their culture and ethnicity are different from the majority of the native population of the country that they live in.

Immigrant children and adolescents in a country are one of those who are affected by this. They often experience disruption because of their position as a minority. This also disrupts their identity formation process or known as an identity crisis because for many adolescents in minority groups, race or ethnicity and culture are central to identity formation (Papalia et al., 2009, p. 394). This is experienced by the character Amina in the novel *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan. Amina is an adolescent who experiences an identity crisis in the process of finding her identity. Amina is an immigrant from Pakistan living in America. Her status as an immigrant becomes the main factor in her struggle to find her identity.

Amina's Voice is one of the literary works in the form of a novel that raises issues of identity. The novel was written by a Pakistani American writer named Hena Khan, and published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division in 2017. Hena Khan was inspired by her personal experience as a Muslim immigrant from Pakistan living in America. Raising issues of friendship conflict, family conflict, cultural differences, and Islamophobia, the novel tells the story of Amina's life and the Muslim immigrant community in America. As the main character in the novel, Amina experiences an identity crisis in the process of her identity development during her adolescence. This happens because Amina has to face many cultural differences in her environment.

Besides, family environment also influences Amina as an adolescent in her identity development process. According to Cooper, as cited by Santrock in *Adolescence* (2016, p. 148), parents are important figures in adolescent's identity development. Amina is the daughter of Pakistani parents who have a strong Islamic background and somewhat authoritarian. Her parents passed on their beliefs and culture to their children to preserve their cultural origins, remembering that they are a minority living in a multicultural country. In addition to the family environment, the friendship also influences Amina in her identity development process. According to McLean & Jennings, as cited by Santrock in *Adolescence* (2016, p. 149), friends are often become a safe context for exploring identity-related experiences. Amina realizes her differences with her friends who are mostly Native Americans, ranging from differences in culture, religion, skin color, food, and so on. Besides, Amina also gets a racist treatment from her friends at school. All of

these things make Amina has to adjust between maintaining her identity as an American Muslim of Pakistani descent living in America, her social life in the neighborhood, and her association with her schoolmates in America.

Identity is what people believe they are, which represents the synthesis and integration of self-understanding (Santrock, 2016, p. 142). Erikson states that identity is the fifth stage of psychosocial development, in which an adolescent begins to strive to develop a coherent sense of self, including the role they should play in society (Papalia et al., 2009, p. 390). According to Erikson, as cited by Papalia et al., in *Human Development* (2009, p. 390), identity is formed when adolescents resolve three major issues in their lives: occupational choice, adoption of values, and development of a satisfying sexual identity. Identity can involve conflict and has its own development stage during adolescence (Kroger, 2004, p. 19). Adolescence, between the ages of 12 to 18, is the stage where humans must face and resolve their basic ego identity crisis. In this stage, humans begin to form their self-image, an integration of ideas about themselves, and what others think of them (Schultz, 2017, p. 167).

Identity crisis is a period of active struggle or questioning in making decisions regarding goals, values and beliefs (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 161). It can also be understood that an identity crisis is a time when people explore different roles in an attempt to find their identity. According to Schultz (2017, p. 167), people who successfully pass the identity crisis stage will face adulthood with certainty and confidence. They will also be able to answer some question about Who am I? What am I all about? What am I going to do with my life? What is different about

me? How can I make it on my own? (Santrock, 2016, p. 142). People who fail to pass the identity crisis stage will experience identity confusion, where they do not know who or what they are, where they are, or where they want to go. Identity confusion may become an issue during adolescent stage (Erikson, 1978, p. 235).

Based on the explanation, the researcher is interested to discuss Amina's identity crisis process which analyzed using identity status theory by James E. Marcia to identify and resolve the identity development crisis experienced by Amina.

1.2 Research Question

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

1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the research question above, this research aims to analyze the process of Amina's Identity crisis during her adolescence as portrayed in Hena Khan's *Aminas Voice* (2017). With the crisis in Amina's identity development, whether she will succeed in achieving her identity or experience identity confusion.

1.4 Significance of Study

The researcher expects that this research can increase the study of human identity. The researcher also hopes that the readers can understand the status of human identity that occurs during adolescence and the way to resolve the identity development crisis that occurs during adolescence, particularly one that is

experienced by Muslim immigrants. Hopefully, this research can be a useful reference in studying literary works in the English Department of Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University.

1.5 Literature Review

There have been several studies discussing object and issue that support the research, including those raised by several researchers in their writings, whether in the form of journals, articles, graduating paper, or other forms of writing.

The first research is a graduating paper titled “*Being an Immigrant and a Moslem: A Social Identity Analysis of Hena Khan’s Amina’s Voice*” by Umi Kulsum from Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University (2020). The writer used Sosial Identity theory by Henry Tajfel. The writer’s aim to give an understanding about social identity in *Amina’s Voice* Novel. The writer analyzed how Amina and her family as a Pakistani Muslim immigrant adapt to the American culture using social identity theory. The final result of this research found that the adaptation process of Pakistani Muslim immigrants to American culture has influenced Amina's family thought. Amina's family believes that their community is better than others. They strongly defend their group in the first place so they have a commitment to protect their group (Kulsum, 2020).

The second research is an article titled “*Multiculturalism Values in Hena Khan’s Amina’s Voice*” by Nelly Trisna Raja Guk-Guk and Mike Wijaya Saragih, published in 2021. This research used the concept of indicators of multiculturalism values proposed by Tilaar (2004) and the concept of acculturation by Berry (2005).

This research aims to show how the values of multiculturalism are displayed in Amina's life and how the practice of multiculturalism can change the perspective of other characters view of multiculturalism in the novel *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan. The final result of this research found that there are forms of multiculturalism values found in three spheres of Amina's life, namely in the family, school, and social environment. Among them learning in diversity, mutual trust, mutual understanding, mutual respect, open-mindedness, appreciation and interdependence (mutual dependence), and conflict resolution. In addition, the writer also found that the practice of multiculturalism that occurred in the text resulted in an acculturation process that successfully changed the perspective of Amina's family members towards the value of multiculturalism (Guk-Guk & Saragih, 2021).

The third research is an article titled “*Bildungsroman and Selfhood: A Jungian Analysis of the Novel Amina's Voice by Hena Khan*” by Syed Abuzar Naqvi, Waqas Yousal, and Muhammad Aslam Shad, published in 2023. This research used the Gustave Jungs theory of the individuation process. This research aims to demonstrate how the novel's protagonist, Amina, establishes her selfhood and explores how the protagonist demonstrates and completes Jung's individuation process. The Final result of this research found that every individual should realize and accept the personality that they have. Also found that Amina's character and personality as an introvert and her transformation into a new girl who is confident, courageous, bold, and mature enough to attain her challenges (Naqvi et al., 2023).

The fourth research is an article titled “*Islamic Identity Politics in The Novel Amina’s Voice by Hena Khan (2017) Based on Kuntowijoyo’s Prophetic Literature Studies*” by Muiz Yusron Hamdi, published in 2023. This research used the Kuntowijoyo prophetic literature study approach. This research aims to explain some of the principles of prophetic literature appear and the messages voiced by the author through the character Amina, an American Muslim girl of Pakistani descent, who voices that Islam is a unified whole, upholds human values, togetherness in diversity, and rejects discrimination and violence (Hamdi, 2017).

The fifth research is a graduating paper titled “*The Identity Crisis of Ali as Portrayed in Ali’s Wedding*” by Miladia Nur Aini from Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University (2021). The writer used identity development theory by Erik Erikson, identity status theory by James Marcia, and movie theory by Villarejo. The writer analyzed and found that Ali experiences identity confusion. The final result of this research found that Ali’s identity crisis can be explained within three identity statuses, they are identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. Social context also gives a big influence on Ali’s identity formation (Aini, 2021).

However, this research is different from previous studies, because this research focuses on the process of identity crisis experienced by Amina to find her identity during adolescence. This research also uses the identity status theory by James. E Marcia, which discusses the components of identity formation based on the experiences and cases experienced by Amina in *Amina’s Voice* (2017).

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The theory used by the researcher is identity status theory by James E. Marcia. In his theory, James E. Marcia elaborates Erikson's theory of identity development into four statuses. This theory is used to identify a person's crisis that seen from each identity component in the four statuses of identity development. Therefore, the researcher will focus on using identity status theory to examine how the crisis process experienced by Amina in her identity development.

1.6.1 Identity Status Theory

James E. Marcia analyzed Erikson's theory of identity development and elaborated it into four identity statuses as a process in resolving identity crisis (Santrock, 2014, p. 145). The four identity statuses are defined by their position in two conceptual dimensions: exploration (crisis) and commitment (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 161). According to Marcia (1993, p. 161), exploration (crisis) is a period of active struggle or questioning in making decisions regarding goals, values and beliefs, while commitment is making a relatively firm choice about an element of identity and engaging in significant activities aimed at carrying out that choice. There are four identity statuses that stated by Marcia, as follows:

1. Identity Diffusion

Identity diffusion is when a person has no clear identity and little idea of the future (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 7). Identity diffusion is Marcia's term that describes the condition of adolescents when they have not experienced an identity crisis and have not made any commitments

(Santrock, 2016, p. 145). Their chosen lifestyle may actively resist any kind of commitment, may result in aimless wandering, and they usually show little interest in such things (Schultz, 2017, p. 177).

2. Identity Foreclosure

Identity foreclosure is when a person has a relatively high aspiration level score, meaning they consistently refuse to lower their goals after an experience of failure (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 13). Identity Foreclosure is Marcia's term to describe the condition of adolescents who have not yet experienced an identity crisis but have shown commitment to an occupation and ideology (Schultz, 2017, p. 176). This commitment is often given by parents to their teenage children, usually in an authoritarian way so that teenagers do not have sufficient opportunities to explore different approaches and choose their own options (Santrock, 2016, p. 145).

3. Identity Moratorium

Identity moratorium is when a person is in transition from having no sense of identity or from a conferred identity to a constructed identity with higher anxiety scores compared to other subjects (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 7). Identity moratorium is Marcia's term to describe the condition of adolescents who are in the midst of an identity crisis, but do not yet have a clear commitment to the identity (Santrock, 2016, p. 145). In this status, adolescents have ambivalent views towards authority figures, alternately rebelling against them and needing their guidance (Schultz, 2017, p. 176).

4. Identity Achievement

Identity achievement is when a person has an identity that is built on their own will (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 7). Identity achievement is Marcia's term for the condition of adolescents who have experienced an identity crisis and made a commitment (Santrock, 2016, p. 145). In this status, adolescents are committed to their choice of occupation and ideology (Schultz, 2017, p. 176).

Identity is a self-portrait that is composed of many components, including vocational/career identity, political identity, religious identity, relationships identity, achievement identity, sexual identity, gender identity, ethnic/cultural identity, interest identity, personality identity, and physical identity (Santrock, 2016, p. 143). These components become part of the exploration and commitment in the process of developing identity in humans. The identity status is used as a medium to classify how many components of the human self an adolescent can find in every status. The resolution of an identity crisis is not always stable and can change until the next stage of psychosocial development.

Marcia further adds that there are two types of committed and two types of uncommitted subjects. The committed subject has gone through a crisis or exploration period so that it can achieve its commitment, while the uncommitted subject has not experienced much exploration so that it cannot determine its commitment and experiences identity confusion (Marcia et al., 1993, p. 10-11).

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of Research

This research uses a qualitative descriptive research method. According to Creswell (2018, p. 2), qualitative research method is an approach to explore and understand the meaning given by individuals or groups to a social or human problem. Qualitative descriptive method is focusing on the details of what, where, when, and why of an event or experience.

1.7.2 Data Source

The data used in this research are in the form of words, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs from the primary source, that is, a novel published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division titled *Amina's Voice* written by Hena Khan. The data from the novel used is in the form of narration and dialog that supports and becomes evidence of the problem raised in this research. The researcher also takes the sources to strengthen the analysis from books and journals that related to the topic and object of discussion.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The data collection technique used in this research is documentation technique, namely by looking for the data in the form of transcript notes, books, letters, documentation, and so on. According to Huberman & Miles (1984, p. 9), in documentation technique data on a piece of paper that looks or sounds important and attracts the attention will be looked at and a copy made or notes it in a notebook. The data collection technique begins with reading the novel. While reading the novel, the researcher also does some close reading and pay attention to every

dialogue and setting that happen in the storyline. Then, the researcher collects the data to be analyzed into transcript notes. Last, the researcher analyzes the data based on the theory that has been chosen.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis used in this research is an analytical model Huberman and Miles that consist of four stages, namely: data reduction, data presentation, conclusion, and verification of research results (Huberman & Miles, 1984, p. 16). The data analysis technique begins with reading the novel, then the researcher finds and collects the data from the novel. After that, the researcher chooses and reduces the data that has been collected to produce the most relevant data. After the most relevant data has been collected, the researcher presents the data into the discussion part and analyze them using the identity status theory by James E. Marcia, which focuses on the process of identity crisis experienced by Amina to find her identity during adolescence. Identity status theory also used to identify and resolve the identity development crisis experienced by Amina into four identity statuses, namely: identity diffusion, identity foreclosure, identity moratorium, and identity achievement. Next step is the researcher will make the conclusion of the analysis and before it finished the researcher will do some verification to the research result.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which consists of background of study, research questions, objectives of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical framework (identity development theory and identity status theory), method of research (type of

research, data sources, data collection technique, and data analysis technique), and paper organization. The second chapter is an intrinsic elements of *Amina's Voice*, which consist of novel summary, theme, setting (setting of place, setting of time, and setting of social condition), plot, point of view, and characters and characterization. The third chapter is discussion which consists of the analysis and the result of the research. The fourth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

In analyzing *Amina's Voice* (2017), the researcher focuses to analyze the crisis experienced by Amina to find her identity using identity status theory by James E. Marcia. Marcia further analyzed Erikson's theory of identity development. He found that in identity development there are two committed individuals and two uncommitted individuals. Committed individuals experience exploration or known as identity crisis, while uncommitted individuals experience identity confusion as Erikson said. The identity status here acts as a way to solve the problems or crisis in identity, which is determined by exploration or crisis and commitment. To determine the exploration and commitment in each identity status is by looking at the components of identity that each individual has.

In her identity development, Amina is included in committed and uncommitted individuals, this can be seen from each component of Amina's identity in her identity status. For statuses that indicate committed individuals are identity foreclosure and identity achievement. In identity foreclosure, Amina experiences low exploration and high commitment, which means that she makes a commitment right away without experiencing any exploration or identity crisis first. There are three components of Amina's identity in this status, namely intellectual identity, sexual identity and political identity. While, in identity achievement, Amina experiences high exploration and high commitment, which means that she is experiencing an exploration or identity crisis first before making a commitment.

There are four components of Amina's identity in this status, namely gender identity, interest identity, physical identity and personality identity.

Meanwhile, for statuses that indicate uncommitted individuals are identity diffusion and identity moratorium. In identity diffusion, Amina experiences low exploration and low commitment, which means that she is not experiencing an exploration or identity crisis and also not making a commitment. There are two components of Amina's identity in this status, namely relationship identity and career identity. While, in identity moratorium, Amina experiences high exploration and low commitment, which means that she is experiencing an exploration or identity crisis but not making a commitment. There are two components of Amina's identity in this status, namely religious identity and cultural identity.

However, Amina's success in achieving and determining her identity varies in each component of her identity. This can be seen from the presence or absence of exploration and commitment to each identity component. Exploration and commitment are determined Amina's identity components to be in four different statuses. In Amina's identity foreclosure and identity achievement, Amina manages to achieve her identity by making commitments to each component of her identity. While, in Amina's identity diffusion and identity moratorium, Amina did not manage to make a commitment to each component of her identity. This indicates that Amina experiences identity confusion because she still feels confused about determining her identity.

4.2 Suggestion

After completing the research on *Amina's Voice*, the researcher feels that *Amina's Voice* is an interesting novel and it contains many lessons about various important issues. The researcher only focused on the issue of identity as the problem that raised in this research. However, this novel can also be discussed with other theories that may be related to the problems and issues that contained in the story. For further research, the researcher hopes that this research can be useful and become a good reference. The researcher realizes that the results of this research have not been fully maximized. Therefore, the researcher is very open to receiving criticism and suggestions that are constructive and can improve this research.

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