

## INTROVERT PERSONALITY IN RAINBOW ROWELL'S FANGIRL

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this research were to analyzed the introvert personality reflected in Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl* and also to explain the causes and effects of introvert personality reflected in Rainbow Rowell *Fangirl*. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative. The collected data was then analyzed based on the theory taken by the researcher as a reference. In analyzing the data, the researcher used psychosocial theory. The results of this study indicate that introvert personality is found in Cath. Introvert personality also effects Cath to have low self-esteem, feel uncomfortable with her surroundings and difficulties in her social life. Cath's introvert personality be based on Erik Erikson's theory.

**Keywords:** *Introvert, Psychosocial Theory, Personality, Affected*

### INTRODUCTION

Literature is a part of art, as a work of art people can enjoy art by two parts reading and writing. So that the results of these literary works can attract the interest of readers and can be used as a mirror of life for readers. John Ellis (2011) argues that literature is not limited by characteristics, such as rhyme, meter, plot, setting, and characterizations. To get public appreciation, literary work must have a interesting good storyline. Prose, is a form literary of art, must have a interesting conflicts between it is characters to make a plot. Therefore, the writer must be good a developing the character and plot. Through the characters in story, the writer can be show the character personalities.

The psychosocial traits displayed in the main character, the reader be able to understand about the characters personality. Each the characters have a different personalities according to their environment or the social life. Therefore, the personality of the characters was have shown through the thoughts, behaviour, or emotions of the characters towards the themselves or social environment.

The example of a literary work that represents an different personalities was the work of Rainbow Rowell' *Fangirl*. In this novel discusses about the main character who has an introverted personality. Cath Avery, is the main character experiences some difficulties in the university life due to her introvert personality. As the introverted, she has a experiences conflicts within herself. From this story point, Cath's introverted personality was the main focus in analyzing of the novel in this thesis. The main character of *Fangirl* novel, was an analyzed using psychosocial theory. This thesis was prepared with the title "Introvert Personality in Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl*."

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### ***Research Design***

This research is a qualitative research to analyze the novel *Fangirl*. According to Bogdan and Biklen (2003: 30) "Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words and pictures, not numbers. The written results of the research contain excerpts from the data to illustrate and strengthen the presentation. Researchers use qualitative research as a design because researchers explain moral values descriptively and present findings in the form of words not numbers. Furthermore, descriptive analysis will be used to analyze the work. This is a method in qualitative research. Descriptive data analysis aims to provide an overview of the research subject based on data from the variables obtained from the group of subjects studied and does not pay attention to hypothesis testing.

### ***Data Collection***

In collect the data, the writer chose a qualitative method to collect data. Given (2008: 185) defines data as a collection of information that will be used in a study.

Creswell states that qualitative researchers collect data themselves by examining documents, observing behavior, and interviewing participants. In collecting data for this study, the writer first read the novel comprehensively and by observing the related data described in the novel.

### ***Data Sources***

Data is the information or facts used to discuss or determine answers to research questions. Data sources in this study are subjects from which data can be collected for research purposes (Arikunto, 2010: 129). The source of data for this study is the literature itself. A Fangirl novel by Rainbow Rowell. The book has 456 pages and was published by St. Martin's Griffin Press in 2013.

### ***Data Analysis***

In analyzed the data, this study used a library research approach and a psychosocial approach used in this study. According to Erik Erikson (1963), the psychosocial perspective of personality development is very important. According to Erikson, personality develops in a predetermined sequence from infancy to adulthood through eight stages of psychosocial development. At each stage, the person experiences a psychosocial crisis that may have positive or negative effects on personality development. Erikson's theory of psychosocial development was a comprehensive and detailed approach to understanding how people develop in life. The theory states that psychosexuals are faced with the task of creating a balance between ourselves and our social world. It describes a lifetime of development divided by the specific crisis to be resolved. According to Erikson, a crisis is equivalent to a turning point in life when we have the possibility of going forward or backward. At this turning point, we may resolve our conflicts or fail to master developmental tasks. The above statement illustrates that the psychosocial approach focuses on personality development. This means that all data analyzes in this study use aspects of psychosocial theory to discuss the character of Cath Avery, the main character in the story. Psychosocial takes a different approach or perspective when trying to understand

human behavior. The data collected by this method comes from all supporting sources. The researcher personally extracts and analyzes from this novel. Resources are obtained from libraries and the Internet in the form of books or journals in support of this thesis.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Introvert reflected in Cath's personality***

Personality is the essential nature of an individual which is reflected in a person's attitude. They enjoy spending time alone, have a smaller circle of friends, and are more comfortable when not socially interacting. They rejuvenate with alone time, not by hanging out with people".

The general attitudes on Cath Avery's personality, will be clarified below:

Reagan who saw Cath's 'pathetic aura' as a loner, declared herself as Cath's friend after she saw Cath's weird logic about how she was comfortable enough even though she did not have any friends. Reagan found Cath ridiculous because she starved herself when Cath did not ask her where the dining hall was. Cath's introvert personality made Reagan thought that Cath should not be afraid of people and started to socialize with actual people.

"You are. You don't have any friends, your sister dumped you, you're a freaky eater ... And you've got some weird thing about Simon Snow." ... "I have lots of friends," "I never see them." "I just got here. Most of my friends went to other schools. Or they're online." "Internet friends don't count." ... "I feel sorry for you, and I'm going to be your friend." (Rowell, 2013: 170)

Another sign of introvert personality type in Cath was that she did not associate with other college students, especially when they were having a party. She refused Levi's invitation to his party at his house.

"Hello?" "Hey. It's Levi." "Hi?" "There's a party at my house tonight."  
"There's always a party at your house." "So you'll come? Reagan's coming."  
"What would I do at your party, Levi?" ... "No. Not exactly. Not like that."  
"Have fun at your party, Levi." (Rowell, 2013: 190)

She felt defensive about his invitation because the idea of 'partying' concerned her.

### ***Introvert viewed from Erikson's Theory***

According to Erikson's theory of personality structure is divided into several parts as follows:

#### ***a. Creative Ego***

The creative ego is an ego that can find creative solutions to new problems at every stage of life. A form of mental activity that in theory does not change in different environments. It consists of human perception, memory, and feeling.

"Get you shoes," Reagan said. "I'm showing you where the dining hall is".  
"No". Cath could already feel the anxiety starting to tear her stomach into nervous little pieces. "It's not just that.... I don't like new pieces. New situations. There'll be all those people and I won't know where to sit--- I don't want to go". (Rowell, 2013:39).

The situation above shows that how introvert is in the characteristics of Cath Avery. This proves that the introvert personality is so attached to her that she doesn't want to be in a place where there are many people.

#### ***b. Functional Autonomy Ego***

A functional autonomic ego is the ego that focuses on adjusting the ego to reality. For example, the relationship between mother and child or other examples of caring and affection for the family.

How many days? she wondered. And was he eating? Was he going to the bathroom? Had he shoved his desk up against the door? Had he thrown a stack of ideas out the seventh floor window? Had he stood in the hallway

and shouted, You're all limp-dicked sellouts! Every one of you! And especially you, Kelly, you fucking brainless hack! Did they have to carry him out? Was it during the day? Did everyone watch? (Rowell, 2013: 213)

"Here is my terms: You can go back to school. "Wren and Cath both exhaled. "But you don't drink. At all. Not in moderation, not with your boyfriend, not at parties---never. You see a counselor every week, starting this week, and you start attending AA meetings". "Dad", Wren said. "I'm not an alcoholic". "Good. It's not contagious. You're going to meetings". "I'll go with you," Cath offered. "I'm not done," their dad said. "What more do you want?" Wren whined. "Blood test?"

"You come home every weekend." "Dad." "Or you can just move home. It's your choice, really." "I have a life," Wren said. "In Lincoln." "Don't talk to me about your life, kid. You've shown complete disregard for your life." Wren's hands were tight fists, lumps of coal, in her lap. Cath kicked her ankle. Wren's head dropped. "Fine," she said. "Fine." "Good," their dad said, then took a deep breath and held on to it for a second. "I'll drive you back later, if you think you're ready." (Rowell, 2013:359-360).

This situation above, it can be seen that their father really cares about his children. Father gives directions and forbid things that their children should not do for their children's future. In the situation above, it is explained that father really loves and cares for Wren and Cath.

### ***c. Influences of society***

The influence of society is the predominant part of ego, although the inborn capacities of the individual are also important in the development of personality. Actually, people who have introvert personalities can socialize with other people because basically people who have introvert personalities also want to have a normal life by balancing other people around them who are not people who have introvert personalities. And people who have introvert personality will make their own perceptions if they socialize about other people will accept themselves or not.

"But it doesn't matter. Nothing you just said matters, Cath. And most of it isn't even true. We have lots of stu in common. We talk all the time---we used to. And it just made me want to talk to you more. That's a really good sign."

"What do we have in comon?"

"We like each other", he said. "What more is there? Also, compared to the rest of the world, we have everything in common. If aliens came down to earth, they probably wouldn't even be able to tell us apart". (Rowell, 2013:269-270).

The situation above explains that Cath is a person who cannot socialize because he is more preoccupied with his own world than socializing with other people. But when Cath finds someone comfortable and connected with her conversation, she will be able to socialize with other people.

### ***The Causes of Introvert***

Cath's introvert personality has something to do with her psychological nature and there's a reason for that. When Cath was very young, Laura's mother left the family because Laura was not ready to be parents.

She remembered crying a lot at school. Hiding with Wren in the bathroom during recess. Holding hands on the bus. Wren scratching a boy who said they were gay in the eye. ... Then, in one week, Wren cut some other girl's dress with safety scissors, and Cath wet her pants during Social Studies because she was scared to raise her hand to ask for a bathroom pass; their teacher called their dad in and gave him a business card for a child

psychologist. (Rowell, 2013: 144)

The situation above shows how the loss of a mother in the family affects Cat psychologically. Unlike her sister, Wren, who staged several rebellions after their

mother abandoned them, Cath decided to isolate herself from her surroundings and that led to her now introvert personality. Cath also blamed Cath for being insecure with his surroundings. When Laura leaves the family, it affects not only Cath and Wren, but also their father who becomes manic and depressed.

The following quotation shows Cath's thoughts about her mother: "I really hate her," Cath said, shaking her head, trying to imagine what kind of mother cried on the first day of kindergarten, then walked out in the middle of third grade." (Rowell, 2013: 255).

According to this quote, Cath tends to be very tall for her mother. Out of hatred, she doesn't even like Laura's idea and she met again after a long time. She was really angry when she was father and Wren accepted Laura's wish to meet them. Cath believes when her mother Laura left her when she was young, it affected her mentality and that is the reason why she has an introvert personality.

"Good!" Cath shouted. "So, do I!" She took a step closer to her sister. "I'm probably going to be crazy for the rest of my life, thanks to her. ... That's the ultimate kind of broken. The kind of damage you never recover from. I hope she feels terrible. I hope she never forgives herself." (Rowell, 2013: 234)

After that, Cath always held a grudge against his mother. She thought she was a responsible mother because she was 'abnormal' because she didn't have a mother who took care of her since childhood.

### ***Cath's Way Overcame to The Causes of Her Introvert Personality***

In this case, Cath's Way of Overcoming Her Introvert Personality. Cath could not find the solution for her introvert personality alone. Usually, Reagan and Levi helped her to solve her 'social' problems.



“Why haven’t you asked someone? You could have asked me.” Cath rolled her eyes and looked at Reagan. “Do you really want me asking you stupid questions?” “If they’re about food, water, air, or shelter—yes. Jesus, Cath, I’m your roommate.” (Rowell, 2013: 38)

The quotation above showed how Cath did not dare to ask Reagan because she was too anxious about Reagan’s thoughts about her. Therefore, Reagan had to openly say to Cath that she did not mind if Cath asked her help about something, especially if it was about food. Reagan even emphasized her words towards Cath that asking her is not stupid.

Cath’s ego to solve everything by herself often became the problem of her social life, too. Although she knew that sometimes she got a hard time because of that, she was still being stubborn about it.

### ***The Effects of Introvert***

Cath Avery's introvert personality influenced her university life the most. This is shown when Cath finally feels uncomfortable with her own environment.

“I’m not really having problems....” Cath said. “I’ve just decided that I’m not going back.” Her dad looked at her like he was still waiting for her to give a real answer. “I’m not going back for second semester,” she said: “Because?” “Because I don’t want to. Because I don’t like it.” (Rowell, 2013: 243)

Even though she lies to her father about her problems with Professor Piper about her Fiction Writing assignment, her introverted side must have influenced Cath's thoughts of leaving university. She thought that the university environment didn't suit her, and it suited Wren more.

Cath’s love life also affected because of her introvert personality influences her self-esteem.

"Levi." She cut him off and looked him straight in the eye, trying to look stern despite her tears. "I can't thank you enough for bringing me here. But I couldn't mean this more: I'd like it if you left now. I don't just kiss people. Kisses aren't ... just with me. That's why I've been avoiding you. That's why I'd like to avoid you now. Okay?" (Rowell, 2013: 223)

After Cath saw Levi with another girl at the party, she thought that Levi was being unfaithful. She believed that a friendly person like Levi only needed the advantage of her.

## **CONCLUSION**

After analyzed the personality character of Cath Avery in Rainbow Rowell's *Fangirl* Novel by using Psychosocial theory by Erikson's, the researcher came to a conclusion about this research. From this analysis there were several points which can be summarized as a conclusion. Introvert personalities tend to isolate themselves, have few close friends, and feel uncomfortable socializing with others. People with this personality also lack environmental attention, having only sympathy for family or close friends, are not easily adaptable and have difficulty expressing themselves.

The main character of *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell, Cath Avery, has traits of an introvert. Cath's personality is an introvert, she is more preoccupied with his own world and does not like to interact with the people around her. She spent more time in her room writing fanfic stories. She doesn't like being outside of a lot of people because she finds it very crowded and doesn't like noise. In fact, she didn't like to eat in the canteen because it was so crowded that he preferred to eat in her room. Cath's shy, withdrawn personality affected her social life, especially in college. Cath had a difficult time in the university in her new surroundings. Cath has also been difficult to communicate with others and sometimes worries that he won't hurt others feelings if he wants to resist something. She was afraid to talk to other people because she thought she would mock herself too. Cath's introvert personality is also due to her mother's passing. In Cath's case, she was abandoned by her mother when she was very young. After Cath's mother left her, Cath not only became more insecure about everything, but also became shy

and anxious most of the time. Thus, her introvert personality is caused by a lack of attention from a mother figure.

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