

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Adolescence is a transitional phase of growth and development between childhood and adulthood. According to World Health Organization (WHO), any person range of 10 to 19 years old can be called an adolescent. Adolescence itself can be divided into some stages including; early adolescence (age 10 to 14), mid-adolescence (age 15 to 17), and late adolescence (age 18 to 24). Adolescents experience puberty. Puberty is a process when growing boys or girls undergo a process of sexual maturation and involves a series of physical stages that lead to the achievement of fertility and the development of the so-called secondary sex characteristics (World Health Organization, 2018).

The development between boys and girls will be different. Girls will start puberty at the age of 11 and will be followed by the development of physical changes. The physical changes that will happen include; having their first period, developing acne, and having leukorrhea. Meanwhile, boys will start their puberty start at the age of 12. The physical changes that happen will include; having wet dreams, having deeper sounds, growing testicles, and scrotum.

Puberty does not only affect us physically but also psychologically. They will experience changes in some neurotransmitters (e.g. dopamine and serotonin) in the limbic system, which will affect their emotion (LumenCandala, 2022). Usually, an adolescent will become more emotional than children and adults.

In this stage, adolescents will develop their cognition which will bring an impact on identity formation. Identity development is also a vital process for adolescence because it will shape their perception of belonging which is not only important for their teenage years, but it will also give impact their adult life. It is a key process for adolescents and when they fail to establish their own identity, it will lead to role confusion and a weak sense of self later in life.

In this process, adolescents will try to experience different roles, behavior, and ideologies to select an identity. They will continue to define themselves as they relate to others. Adolescent who does not establish their personal beliefs and value will experience an identity crisis.

In the process of searching for identity, some adolescents will experience stress and confusion that will lead them to express themselves negatively, which can be called identity issues. The most common ways for adolescents to show who they are; seeking status symbols (includes clothing and possessions to create a sense of positive affiliation), rebellion (to show that they are different from their parents and can be accepted by their peers), idols (some teens may identify with a famous person and try to become that like the person, as a result, they lose hold of their own identity), forbidden 'grown-up' behaviors (believe that appearing mature will bring acceptance; smoking, drinking, drugs, and sexual activity), and clique (Watson, 2019).

Therefore, adolescents need to have self-regulation. Self-regulation can be defined in many ways. It is about how someone controls their behavior, emotion, and thoughts to pursue a long-term goal. Specifically, it refers to the ability of

someone to manage disruptive emotions and impulses (Cuncic, 2020). According to Baumeister & Alquist, (2009); Muraven & Baumeister (2000) self-regulation will also involve inhibiting or changing initial, dominant thoughts, feelings, or behaviors to maximize one's long-term reward.

Parents must accompany their children who are in the adolescence stage. Parents are powerful role models for teenagers. What parents do and say will guide adolescents' behavior, attitudes, and belief whether in the present or for the long term. Since parents have a huge influence on their children's values and long-term choices, the stronger the relationship between them the better (Raisingchildren, 2021).

According to Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990) social control theory, parents need to teach adolescents to internalize the rules of society. When parents' socialization fails, it is likely for adolescents to engage in deviant and problematic behaviors (Farley & Kim-Spoon, 2014). Unfortunately, not all adolescents can have parents' guidance for helping them pass the adolescence stage. Adolescents who receive parental support and encouragement grow up less likely to rebel against their parents (Ramirez, 2022). The absence of a parent's role can be caused by loss through death, divorce, absence through work commitments, or neglect.

Without parental guidance, an adolescent who experiences identity issues may lead to juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is a behavior that deviates from the norms of criminal law. He could harm himself or the people around him. The activities include using drugs, fighting, gambling, drinking liquor, and many more (Sumara et al., 2017).

In Indonesia, juvenile delinquency also often occurs. One of the events happened in Jogjakarta, and it is called '*Klithih*'. *Klithih* is a phenomenon where adolescents commit crimes on Jogjakarta's streets and it usually occurs at midnight. On 27th December 2021, two adolescents were slashed by other adolescents on the street. When committing the crime, the perpetrators use a sickle, bottle shards, and a modified saw which lead to the victim's injury. On the other hand, *Klithih* motive's case is unknown since the perpetrator chooses their victim randomly. Based on street crime data by Kepolisian Daerah Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, in 2020 there were 52 reports on *klithih*, and 91 people were arrested. Meanwhile, in 2021, the report cases were increased to 58 reports and 102 people were arrested.

Klithih incident is a very worrying incident to the public since everyone could be the victim. According to Yahya Dwi Kurniawan, one of the artists in Jogjakarta, the *klithih* incident has different factors from the perpetrator. It could be from terror, looking for existence, and the main reason in the perpetrator is not approved by their own family, since the family has a vital role towards adolescents (Sucahyo, 2022).

Absolute Brightness is a novel written by James Lecesne. The novel itself raises the theme of adolescents' life. Most of the characters that were told in the story were having the same 'problem'. They were raised in a poor family condition. Because of the lack of family role, the lack of father-figure affects their development, especially the way they act and the way they think.

Absolute Brightness still does not have the Bahasa Indonesia version. Therefore, by translating the work, the translator hopes it can be read by more

people to spread awareness on how important a family is in the growth and development of adolescents.

1.2. Project Objectives

1. To provide an Indonesian translation of *Absolute Brightness* for those who are interested in the novel.
2. To spread awareness among readers about how family poses an important role in an adolescent's development.