

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

"Family is the first relationship between parents and children that the children have had since they were first born. This relationship has a strong bond. So, it cannot be easily separated from other people. Family plays an essential role in a child's life. Parents are children's role models in their life. Parents need to teach their children every lesson that they need in their life. Parents are the first teachers and friends that they have in their lives. Family members are linked in meaningful ways through each stage of life. These relationships are an essential source of social connection and social influence for a child throughout his or her life (Thomas, Liu, and Umberson, 2017).

In general, children are born into biological families. Their biological parents will care for them until they grow up and become adults. Not every child has the same chances. There are some children who, unfortunately, must be separated from their biological parents. Some may be in charge of their relatives, such as their grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts, etc. Some of them must live in an orphanage or foster care. Some even had to live with people who were not their relatives.

There are many reasons why children cannot live with their biological parents. The reasons could be the divorce between their biological parents, an accident, or the death of their biological parents. Somehow, the condition of the children's family can be affected by their behavior and way of thinking. It also depends on how their parents treat their children. Some

children have an adoptive parent as part of their family. However, not everyone accepts this idea. Some may think the only proper way to have a child is to have it biologically.

However, parents who are unable to have a child biologically say it makes them more frustrated. Adopting is the fastest way to have a child without a pregnancy test. This idea is not as easy as it seems. When a married couple decides to adopt children from foster care, they must first struggle with their large family. Because not everyone will accept this idea, and this can be a big problem if they do not discuss it first with their prominent family member. The adoptive children themselves need to adapt to their new family members, and it is not easy for both of them, and we can see their struggle in this *Instant Family* Movie.

In this *Instant Family*, we can see the reality of adoptive parents who have struggled to raise their adoptive children. It started with Pete and Ellie Wagner, who had been married for years but still did not have a child. The problem with having a child starts when Kimmy, the sister of Ellie, comes to visit her with her husband, Russ. Ellie is confident enough that Kimmy will have the same experience as her. They already went to the doctor, but they get nothing. Ellie, the wife, was already frustrated because she had gotten scorn from her parents-in-law, her sister, and all her brothers and sister-in-law. Pete tries to calm down his wife, but he also thinks about how to escape from this situation.

One day, Ellie opens the internet and browse the website about foster care that provides information about children that do not have any parents and are ready to be adopted by prospective foster parents. When Ellie sees this, she thinks she already has a new way to escape the complicated situation that she has to deal with now. She tells her husband about this. At first, it looks like he's not interested in this way. Pete is interested, but seeing all the backgrounds of the children in that foster care makes him not brave enough. But later, he finally agrees with the decision that she made.

The next day, they tried to go to foster care. They both meet the manager of the foster care and attend the meeting of the prospective foster parents. There they get a new information about the children they were about to adopt. They also meet one of the children who was adopted when she was a child, Brenda Fernandez, and her adoptive parents. Brenda tells the people there about her experiences before and after meeting her adoptive parents. Based on her story, Pete and Ellie get more confident about having an adopted child.

Time passes, and the day for Pete and Ellie to choose the child that later becomes their child comes. During this time, they can bring the prospective adoptive child home, try to live with them for several weeks, and decide if the adoptive parents match with their children. They will make the legal adoption letter on behalf of their adopted child. When it is time for Pete and Ellie to go to the adoption fair to choose the child they are going to adopt, they are afraid because they still haven't found any child that matches them.

However, when they take a lunch break, they see a teenage girl chilling out on one side of the park with her friends. She is the one that draws their attention. After talking with her, they finally decided to want her as their adoptive child. Turns out Lizzy Viara, the girl they wanted to adopt, had two younger siblings. Juan and Lita are not separable. Their mother, Carla Viara was sentenced to jail for setting the house on fire and using drugs. While their father remains unknown. Because of that, Lizzy and her siblings are taken by the government to foster care that is run by Karen and Sharon. This means that Pete and Ellie had to adopt three of them at the same time. Having three kids at the same time is not easy.

Especially for Lizzy because she is already a teenage girl. Moreover, the background of the family that Lizzy, Juan, and Lita had. They are not born into a good family. Her mother is a drug user. She also set their house on fire and the police have now arrested her. In the meantime, they do not have other good family relatives. This means Lizzy as the main

character must adapt to the new situation and condition that she never experienced. Nevertheless, it seemed that she could not move on from her dream that was met with her real mother. She made some kinds of trouble so her adoptive parents were hesitant to adopt her and her siblings. In this research, the writer will analyze the main character Lizzy. What is the characterization that she has? How she deals with her conflicts after she is adopted. By watching this movie, we can see Lizzy's characterization and how she deals with her conflicts.

1.2 Problem Statements

The problems of the present study are formulated as follows:

1. How is Lizzy as the main character characterized in the movie?
2. What are Lizzy's conflicts?
3. How does Lizzy deal with her conflicts in the movie?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Referring to the problems formulated above, the objectives of the study can be stated below:

1. To identify how Lizzy is characterized in the movie.
2. To find out Lizzy's conflicts.
3. To describe how Lizzy deals with her conflicts.

1.4 Originality and Significance

The writer originally wrote this research to analyze Lizzy's Characterization and Conflicts with Sean Anders as seen in the *Instant Family* movie. Through this research, the readers will be able to see the main character and characterization of the main character Lizzy. How is her

characterization described in the movie? Also, what are her conflicts, and how does she deal with her conflicts later?

Significance

The significance of this research aimed to enrich the writer's knowledge to know what are the character and characterization of the main character Lizzy along with her conflicts by researching through this *Instant Family* Movie. What are the characters that later will lead her how to deal with the conflicts that she will experience later in this movie? The writer hopes that the readers can also get more knowledge from this research paper.

1.5 Operational Definition of the Key Terms

In this operational definition of the key terms, the writer wants to give some referral phrases that will appear.

Character

A character can be defined as any person, animal, or figure represented in a literary work. (Danahy, 2015)

Characterization

Characterization is the description of a character's physical traits (how a character looks), point of view, personality, private thoughts, and actions. (Blume, 2021)

Conflicts

Conflict is a literary device characterized by a struggle between two opposing forces. Conflict provides crucial tension in any story and is used to drive the narrative forward. It is often used to reveal deeper meaning in a narrative while highlighting characters' motivations, values, and weaknesses. (Brown, 2021).

Mise-en-Scène

A term used to describe the setting of a scene in a play or film. It refers to everything placed on the stage or in front of the camera including people. (What is Mise en Scene in, Film? 2021)