

Shrinking Violet: Media Role in Identity Construction in Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower"

A Research Paper

Submitted to the English Education Department
as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree



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2013



PAGE OF APPROVAL

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*“We accept the love we think we
deserve,”*

- *Stephen Chbosky, The Perks of Being A
Wallflower.*



STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

I hereby certify that this research entitled *Shrinking Violet: Media Role in Identity Construction in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is truly my own work. I am fully aware that I have quoted some ideas and statements from many sources. All of the quotations are acknowledged and stated properly. This paper contains no material which has been submitted for the award of any other degree in any university or institution except where due references are used in the present research paper.

Bandung, February 2013

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PREFACE

All praise to Allah SWT, the most graceful and the most merciful, the creator of the heaven and the earth, which due to the mercy and blessings the writer had finally completed the research paper as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* degree. The present study entitled *Shrinking Violet: The Media Role in Identity Construction in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, discusses the issue of identity construction of the main character named Charlie and the role of print-rich environment as the media that contributes to construct Charlie's identity.

The present study is expected to enrich the literature references about identity construction and media role in young adult novels. Nevertheless, the writer realizes that the study is far away from perfection. Therefore, the writer expects any comment, suggestion, and criticism for better research in the future.

Finally, the writer greatly hopes that the present study may give contributions to those who are working in the field of literature.

Bandung, February 2013

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise and gratitude are always expressed upon the Almighty Allah SWT who has blessed me the power, determination, and patience in completing the present research. Being given the opportunity, I would also like to express my deepest gratitude for those who have supported, encouraged, and motivated me to finish the research.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to Budi Hermawan, M.P.C., as my first supervisor, and Nicke Yunita Moecharam, S.Pd., M.A., as my second supervisor. Thank you for providing your valuable time to assist me in the making-process of the research paper. Thank you for all the guidance, suggestions, and priceless knowledge you have given to me during the supervising sessions. I would also like to thank Prof. Dr. H. Didi Suherdi, M.Ed, as the Head of English Department of UPI; Mr. Riesky S. Pd, M. Ed as the Head of English Literature Program of UPI; and all lecturers of English Department of UPI. Thank you for sharing all valuable knowledge during my college years. As well as to all the administration staffs of English Department of UPI, thank you for the help and kindness in those administrative affairs.

Secondly, I would like to express my endless gratitude to my beloved family. Papa Tedy Haryawan, thank you for your patience, understandings, and jokes you always give to support me. My dearest late Mom, Sri Wahyuni, even though you left before me, but I am always grateful for every lesson you taught me that makes me stronger. It breaks my heart when you're not around in my

graduation, but I can see you smile proudly there for me from heaven. To my one and only elder brother, Adhitya Pratama Haryawan, thank you for being such a reliable brother. To Tante Cory, thank you for taking care of my dad and my family. I hope you'll make a good mother and let's get closer in the future. I also would like to thank my grandmothers, Enin and Mamih, all my uncles and my aunts, my cousins, my nieces and nephews, thank you for your endless supports and prayers for me.

Thirdly, I would like to express my thanks to my precious 'babo' best friend, Nita Tania. Thank you for always being supportive and patient listening to all my randomness LOL. My biggest gratitude goes to all my dearest friends of English literature 2008, especially to Yana Maliyana, Lalitya Putri, Rizky Fajarrani, Widya Astuti, Widya Novianti, Dimas Setiawan, Amelia Lisara, Maulana Subhan Fuad, Novita Arsillah, Isti Siti Patimah, Ryan Aditya, Anisah Septiany, Meifahmi Intan, Rizqi Fauziah, Fadia Anugrah, Desti Ilmianti, Dhea Restu Pradana, and Bayu Surya Purnama. Thank you for making all the precious moments and every bittersweet lesson we had together in our college years. Also, thanks to my knowledgeable pals, Indah Setyawati and Ghidaq Al Nizar for helping me to finish my research paper. It's always been great to have some discussions with both of you.

Lastly but not least, I would like to thank my 9+1 current inspirations, Girls' Generation and Krystal Jung. Even though your presence is like a dream to me, but I can feel you continually giving me strength through your music and variety that never fail to amaze me.





ABSTRACT

The present study entitled *Shrinking Violet: Media Role in Identity Construction in Stephen Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower* focuses on the issue of identity construction and media role on the main character of the story. The study investigates the main character's, Charlie, identity construction in the novel and the contribution of media role, particularly print-rich environment, in the construction of Charlie's identity. The study is conducted within a descriptive text analysis by applying a qualitative method and is framed by theoretical frameworks such as identity theory (Hall, 2000) and young adult literature (Nilsen & Donelson, 2001). The results demonstrate that Charlie's identity is constructed through two different contexts. These contexts are 'home and family' context and 'school and friends' context which also stimulates changes in Charlie's identity. The study also finds that there are roles of print-rich environment play to the construction of Charlie's identity: as a tool of literacy and critical thinking improvement as well as a bibliotherapy which is aimed to be a self-coping problem through reading books.



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