

ABSTRACT

Yosef Riadi: HOLDEN CAULFIELD: A PORTRAIT OF ADOLESCENCE AND ADOLESCENT NON-CONFORMITY; AN ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN J.D. SALINGER'S THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

This thesis is an attempt to show the situation of adolescents. Through analyzing the character of Holden Caulfield, this thesis wants to show the biological, cognitive, and emotional development that an individual achieves during adolescence. It also wants to show the problems that the adolescent usually meets in this period.

Concerning adolescence, this thesis attempts to show that the attitude which an adolescent adopts in order to respond to his (For the sake of convenience within this thesis, I have decided to use the pronoun "he" to mean any individual regardless of his or her sex.) society is the product of his evaluation of what happens in his society. On account of the response, Holden's non-conformity is an attitude that he takes on after he sees the situation of his community. Furthermore, his nervous breakdown is the product of his conflict with his community.

This thesis is a desk research based on psychological and socio-cultural approaches. I have tried to obtain information from books on novel criticism, American Culture, Sociology, Developmental psychology and Social psychology. Those are my references for analyzing the novel.

Having completed this thesis, I have discovered something amazing about human development and human socialization. I have discovered that adolescence is an important period in human life-span in which one has the opportunity to seek his self-identity and to make adjustment for his future life. I also have discovered that, in human interaction, the society always forces its members to conform themselves to the agreed-upon values of the society. It is difficult to maintain one's own values in full knowledge of and in full contact with the different values of the society. Therefore, it is an amazing grace for one who is granted the wisdom to differentiate the seasons for everything.