DAVE’S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT AS SEEN IN HIS TRILOGY A CHILD CALLED ‘IT’, THE LOST BOY AND A MAN NAMED DAVE

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Education Study Program

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Rohandi, Ph.D.
“The only way you can be the best at something is to be the best you can be”
-Susan Beth-

“One of the most important keys to be a successful person is having the discipline to do what you know you should do, even when you don’t feel like doing it”
-unknown-

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved mother, father and brothers. I thank them for always supporting me in every situation.
STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

I honestly declare that this thesis, which I have written, does not contain the work or parts of the work of other people, except those cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should.

Yogyakarta, December 10th, 2015

The Writer

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ABSTRACT


This study discusses Dave Pelzer’s trilogy novels entitled A Child Called “It”, The Lost Boy and A Man Named Dave. The researcher was interested in analyzing the trilogy of novels because these novels tell about the true story of Dave Pelzer who got parental abuse. The objectives of this study are to describe Dave’s characteristics in each novel and analyzed his personality development using Erikson’s psychosocial theory. This study used library research. Psychological approach was applied in this study.

Based on the result of analysis, there were two main points to conclude: the development of Dave’s characteristics and Dave’s personality development. In the former, Dave was a dynamic character as seen in the development of his characteristics in his novels. In a nutshell, Dave’s characteristics developed throughout his course of life. Dave’s characteristics changed from negative to positive: from timid to curious, submissive to independent and low to high self-esteem person. Yet, Dave’s positive characteristic of being a loving person remained constant.

In the latter, Dave’s personality development, analyzed in the light of Erikson’s psychosocial theory, showed that Dave passed the six stages out of eight personality development stages namely Basic Trust vs Basic Mistrust, Autonomy vs Shame and Doubt, Initiative vs Guilt, Industry vs Inferiority, Identity vs Identity Confusion, Intimacy vs Isolation, Generativity vs Stagnation and Integrity vs Despair. In this study, however, the researcher did not find the fulfillment of the last two stages of Erikson’s theory. Dave successfully passed the 1st – 3rd stages and 5th – 6th stages. Yet, in the 4th stage, he achieved the result negatively. All the stages he passed through were bound to social interactions in which he lived. Dave’s personality development was bound to his interactive social factors, particularly the prominent figures: his foster parents and his wife, Marsha.

This study gives understanding and insights about how someone’s personality develops and is expected to help readers understand how someone’s personality develops. These trilogy of novels by Dave Pelzer can be one of alternative sources for whoever is interested in learning about someone’s personality development.

Keywords: abuse, personality development, character
ABSTRAK


Berdasarkan hasil analisis, ada dua poin utama yang bisa disimpulkan: perkembangan karakter dan perkembangan kepribadian Dave. Pertama-tama, Dave adalah tokoh yang dinamis dilihat dari perkembangan karaktannya. Singkatnya, karakter Dave berkembang sepanjang kisah hidupnya. Karakter Dave berubah dari karakter yang negatif menjadi positif; dari anak kurang percaya diri menjadi seorang yang penuh rasa ingin tahu, anak yang tunduk pada seseorang menjadi seorang yang mandiri, dan anak yang mempunyai rasa penghargaan diri rendah menjadi seorang yang mempunyai rasa penghargaan diri tinggi. Namun, karakter positif Dave yang tetap sama adalah menjadi seorang yang penyayang.


Penelitian ini memberikan pemahaman dan wawasan tentang bagaimana kepribadian seorang berkembang dan diharapkan dapat membantu pembaca untuk memahami bagaimana kepribadian seorang berkembang. Novel trilogi karya Dave Pelzer ini dapat menjadi sumber alternatif bagi siapapun yang tertarik dalam pembelajaran tentang perkembangan kepribadian seorang.

Kata kunci: abuse, personality development, character
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Sincerely,

C. Yoani Wulandari M.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

There are five sections in this chapter. They are the background of the study, the problem formulation, the objectives of the study, the benefits of the study, and the definition of terms. The background of the study includes the description of the topic and some reasons underlying for choosing the novels. Next, the problem formulation includes problems discussed in this study. Moreover, the objectives of the study reveal the goals in conducting the study. Then, the benefits of the study explain the advantages of this study. At last, the definition of terms explains several terms related to the topic.

A. Background of the Study

The smallest structure in a society is family. It consists of parents and children. Basically, an individual personality is built upon any influences of both the family and the society where someone belongs to. Hurlock (1974) states “directly, the family influences personality development by molding and by communication. Indirectly, the influence comes from the identification, from unconscious imitation of attitudes, behavior patterns, etc” (p. 352). According to Hurlock (1974), the primary and major factor in building personalities of the children is a family. Therefore, the role of the parents is important in building
children’s personalities since family is the first place for children to learn everything.

Unfortunately, child abuse is one of the worst things that happens in a family. Child abuse cases have become a worldwide problem. Many children are abused by their own parents. According to Wilson (1996), caregiver psychopathology and caregiver history of being abused as a child can be some reasons of child abuse (pp. 561-563). Wilson (1996) also states “caregiver psychopathology refers to emotional and psychological pattern”. Parents who have problems with alcohol and drugs are also identified as significant risk factors of child abuse. When they consume alcohol, they do not know whether they do something good. In addition, parents who have experience being abused are more likely to abuse their children.

For instance, there are many child abuse cases happen in Indonesia recently. As time goes by, the numbers of children experiencing abuse increase every year. Based on the information in Tempo Online Newspaper, the data from Indonesia Indicator (I2), that conducts survey on child abuse shows increasing numbers of child abuse from 2012 to 2015. There were 1,084 child abuse cases in 2012; 2,329 cases in 2013; 7,456 cases in 2014 and 5,266 cases in this year until June 19th, 2015. The data indicated that many children died because of child abuse.

Moreover, the latest case of child abuse in Indonesia is Engeline’s case. As reported in Tempo Online Newspaper, an eight-year old girl named Engeline was abused by her foster mother. The Engeline’s body was buried near a chicken barn
in her house. She was abused by her foster mother and her mother’s assistant. Her foster mother was investigated by the police for the motive of the abuse. This case indicates that child abuse can happen every time and everywhere. Therefore child abuse cases need more attention.

Abuse becomes one of the factors which cause changes in one’s life. The abuses that come from the parents can influence children's personality development. Wilson (1996) states “a victim of abuse can develop a feeling of fear and it can change their personality indirectly. They will feel hopeless, worthless, unwanted, unloved and they will also experience maladjustment” (p. 551). Parents who abuse their children can make the children feel worthlessness, unwanted and unloved. Children will also lose their freedom to build their own imagination and enjoy their childhood.

There are many novels which discuss child abuse. However, in this study, the researcher used Dave Pelzer’s trilogy novels, *A Child Called “It”*, *The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*, as the sources of study. They are suitable novels to conduct a study about the personality development of an abused victim since Dave is a victim of abuse done by his mother. Dave Pelzer's tragic experiences during his childhood, adolescence and adulthood were clearly narrated in his trilogy. The novels were written by Dave from his point of view and additional information he got from some sources: his teachers in the school, his foster parents, the social workers that he met at the court and some people who had rescued him from his abusive mother.
The three novels are the reflection of Dave’s life. The novels tell us about a child's journey being abused by his biological mother. The first novel entitled *A Child Called “It”*, tells about Dave's life until he was twelve years old. His story of experiencing child abuse was clearly narrated in the first novel. In writing the novel, he was helped by his school teacher and the police to get more information. He wrote about his struggles to stay alive in a home where he was treated inhumanly by his own mother.

The second novel entitled *The Lost Boy* tells the story in which Dave had left home and been rescued from his abusive mother. Also, this novel tells about his life in the foster care system until the age of 18. In Dave’s point of view, being a foster child was not easy. He had to adapt to a new environment. He will also do everything in order to be loved by his society. His long journey in seeking for the love of family was also narrated in this novel.

*A Man Named Dave* becomes the final novel of his trilogy. He wrote the conclusion from his autobiography trilogy and told to the readers about his difficulties in adapting himself to have a better life. He joined the Air Force and became an in-flight boom operator – a midair-refuel jets – for the SR-71 Blackbird, one of the most important United States jets and one of his favorite airplanes. His love story was also described in the novel.

Throughout this study, the readers are invited to see a deeper understanding about child abuse and the moral values from someone's experience of being abused. In addition, they are invited to see a different point of view of an abused child who is able to overcome his fear and his pain. As told at the end of
the novel, although Dave was abused by his mother physically and emotionally, he could forgive his mother. It is interesting to know that usually victims of child abuse tend to be abusive parents. Wilson (1996) states “parents who abuse their children are more likely to have been abused themselves than parents who do not abuse their children” (p. 252). Dave is different from other victims of abuse. He has a good wife and a son whom he loves and takes care of.

These novels also teach us and expand our insight about child abuse. The main character of these novels, Dave, has become a successful person and a great motivator. Dave's struggle to keep away from his suffering has taught the readers about the patience and sincerity. The researcher was interested in discussing Dave Pelzer's personality development based on Erikson’s psychosocial theory. Moreover, the researcher also analyzed the influences of society on someone’s personality development.

B. Problem Formulation

There are two formulated problems in this study. The problems are:

1. How is Dave characterized in the trilogy novels?

2. How is Dave’s personality development analyzed based on Erikson’s psychosocial theory?
C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to describe Dave’s characteristics from the trilogy novels and Dave’s personality development based on Dave’s characterization using Erikson’s psychosocial theory.

D. The Benefits of the Study

There are four benefits gained by conducting this study. First, this study gives information to the readers that abuse can affect someone’s personality especially his psychosocial development. The readers can also get moral values from Dave's miserable experiences by reading this study. They can learn about the struggles to survive, the sincerity, and the forgiveness from Dave's experience of being abused.

Next, for lecturers of literature, this study hopefully can be a reference to help the students understand the impact of abuse to someone’s personality development. Then, for English Department students, it is expected that they are encouraged to read the novels because they can learn about literary study. The last, this study can be a reference for future researchers who want to get more understanding about Dave’s personality development in Dave Pelzer's trilogy novels.

E. Definition of Terms

There are six terms that need to be explained to avoid the readers’ misunderstanding when they read the content of this study. The terms are abuse,

1. **Abuse**

   Wilson (1996) states “abuse is maltreatment, injury or neglect that can take many forms. It can be physical, emotional or sexual in nature” (p. 544). In this study, the researcher discussed child abuse that was experienced by Dave Pelzer as the main character in the novels. Wilson (1996) describes child abuse as “physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect directed against a child” (p. 551). Thus, in this study, child abuse means abusive treatments, both physically and mentally experienced by Dave during his childhood.

2. **Personality Development**

   Kalish (1973) states “personality is the dynamic organization of characteristics attributes leading to behavior and distinguishing one individual from other individual” (p. 52). In this study, personality development refers to the development or change in human's personality such as their thought and behavior that they get from their experiences. Dave’s mother abused Dave when he was a child. The effect of the abuse affected his personality development.

3. **Character**

   Abrams (1981) states “characters are the persons in a dramatic or narrative work that is expressed in what they say e.g. the dialogue and what they do e.g. the action” (p. 20). Thus, in this study, characters are individuals in a narrative work who have characteristics or traits which contribute to the development of the story. Those characteristics can be seen from what they say and what they do.
4. *A Child Called “It”*

*A Child Called “It”* is the first part of Dave Pelzer’s trilogy. This novel was written by Dave Pelzer based on his life at the ages of 4 to 12. The language used is from a child’s point of view. The vocabularies also reflect a child’s wisdom and dreams in Dave’s early age. The beginning of the story tells about Dave Pelzer, a boy who is rescued from his house by the people in his school. The nurse and the teachers report his condition to the authorities. The whole story depicts the flashback except the first chapter. The second chapter tells about Dave’s best moments with his family, particularly with his loving mother. Then, Dave’s mother changes and abuses him. His mother considers him as an "It", as the title of the first novel in the trilogy.

5. *The Lost Boy*

The second novel of Dave’s trilogy tells about his life in the ages of 13 to 18. This novel was written based on an adolescent’s point of view. The story explored Dave’s view in enduring his pain, both emotionally and physically. In his adolescence, he has to face many problems like social relationship and the acceptance from others. He has many questions about his life. Besides, the shadow of his cruel mother always follows him. The title of this novel refers to a foster child who seeks for the love of family.

6. *A Man Named Dave*

The last part of Dave’s trilogy tells about his life from the age of 18 until adulthood in which he can reach his victory. Dave starts to find the answer to the question of his miserable life. He lives as an adult who is able to think critically.
He can forget his past and forgive his mother. Finally, he can live as a man named Dave, not a child called ‘It’ or the lost boy anymore.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter is divided into three parts of ground theories used to analyze the novels. The first part is review of related studies. It describes some researchers who are conducted on the same topic or on the same novel. The second part is the theoretical description. This part consists of some theories namely theory of critical approach, theory of character and characterization, theory of psychology, particularly theory of abuse and theory of personality development. The third part is theoretical framework. It provides deeper theories used in analyzing the novels.

A. Review of Related Studies

In relation to child abuse in Dave Pelzer's trilogy, there are two researchers from Sanata Dharma University who have analyzed the same novels. Christanti (2004) in her thesis, she focuses on the impact of abuse to Dave's self-esteem. She also discusses the ways Dave's mother abuses him. It is explained that Dave experiences three kinds of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. In her finding, she proves that Dave's experience being abused affects his self-esteem. Christanti (2004) states that before the abuse, Dave was a child with high self-esteem. During the abuse, Dave lost most of his self-esteem. After Dave was
rescued from his mother, he was successful in proving that he was able to survive and regain his self-esteem (p. xiii)

Meanwhile, the other study on Dave Pelzer's true story is conducted by Sarwono (2003). Her thesis entitled *Dave’s View in Facing his Miserable Life as Seen in Pelzer’s The Lost Boy* mainly discusses how Dave regards his miserable life. Sarwono focuses on Dave's view on his pain. Dave's struggle to keep away from his suffering is also described in her finding.

The two studies reviewed above use the same novels. The first study uses Dave Pelzer's trilogy: *A Child Called 'It', The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*. The second study uses one of Dave Pelzer's trilogy, namely *The Lost Boy*. This study uses the same novels as two previous researchers. This study uses Dave Pelzer's trilogy in which there is no one ever discussed yet Dave’s personality development.

**B. Theoretical Description**

In this section, the researcher reviews the theory of critical approach, theory of character and characterization, theory of abuse and theory of personality development.

1. **Critical Approach**

Rohrberger and Woods (1971) states that literature has an aesthetic value (p. 10). The aesthetic value brings the aesthetic response in which the readers can give an evaluate judgment to the literature work. The researcher needs to employ a critical approach in order to have reasonable judgment. According to Rohrberger
and Woods (1971), there are five approaches that can be used to analyze literary works (pp. 6-15). The approaches are the formalist approach, the biographical approach, the sociocultural-historical approach, the mythopoeic approach and the psychological approach.

The first approach named formalist approach. It focuses on the literary work itself. The formalist approach criticizes only to the elements of the literary works. It focuses on the work without paying attention to other references, such as psychology, sociology, and civilization. It also focuses on demonstrating the harmonious involvement of all parts to the whole and on pointing out how meaning is derived from structure.

The second approach is the biographical approach. In this approach, the readers should appreciate the ideas and personality of the author and the biographical provisions of works. In order to understand the author’s writing, the readers also need to know the author’s idea, personality and life of the author.

The third approach is called sociocultural-historical approach. It focuses on the civilization and its effect to the society and culture. This approach tells about how certain people act in certain period of time. The only way to locate the real work is in reference to the civilization that produces it.

The fourth approach is mythopoeic approach. Myth is used to analyze the literary work. It also focuses on how myth can influence human mind. This approach discovers certain universally recurrent patterns of human thought.

The last is psychological approach. It is an approach that focuses on the psychological side of human beings. This approach uses psychological theories to
explain human motivation, personality and behavior. Psychological approach is applied in this study to analyze the changes of the character’s personalities. The character’s thought and behavior can be understood appropriately by using psychological approach.

2. Theory of Character and Characterization

A story cannot be separated from its elements, including character and characterization. The readers can have a better understanding about the novel through analyzing the character in the novel. Thus, it is important to know about the kinds of the characters and how the characters in the novel are characterized.

a. Character

Character is different from characterization. Character is the person in the novel. Abrams (1981) states that a character is a person in a narrative work and expressed by their dialogues and actions (p. 20). The physical appearance, emotional and moral qualities describe the character and characterization in dramatic or narrative work. The way characters speak, think and act show their emotional, person’s qualities of mind and moral qualities (p. 23).

Perrine (1974), divides the character in two, static and dynamic characters. Static character does not undergo a change and will have the same characteristics from the beginning until the end of the story. Dynamic character is also called a developing character. The character will change in certain conditions and it can be develop into some possibilities. Therefore, a dynamic character is complex, many-sided and requires a deeper analysis than a static character (p. 71).
b. Characterization

Characters are presented in the novel through characterization. Characterization is the way of how the author produces the character. The researcher discusses the theory of characterization in order to get more understanding on how the character in the novels is portrayed.

According to Murphy (1972), there are nine ways in which the author presents his character (pp. 161-173). They consist of:

1) Personal description

A person's appearance can be described by the author for instance, face, body and clothes of the character. The readers can visualize the characters based on what they wear or what they look.

2) Character as seen by another

The character is described by the author through other's reflection and character's opinion. The author gives some descriptions by the comments and the eyes of another character, instead of describing the character directly.

3) Speech

The author can gives the readers an imagination about person's character through his or her way speaking. When he is in a conversation with other, he will show his character through his speech.

4) Past life

A person's character can be shaped by his or her past life. The author’s direct explanation, the character's thoughts and conversation of other are the ways
to find out the character’s past life. By showing the past event or life, it helps the readers to conclude the characterization of the character.

5) Conversation of other

Conversation of others is clue for the readers to find out a person's character through the conversation of other people and the things they say about him. It is different from speech. In speech, the characterization is concluded from opinion through what the person says. In conversation of other, the readers will automatically understand of a person’s character through a conversation between two people talking about someone. They also say their opinions about someone so that the readers can have a clue to understand the characterization of a character discussed.

6) Reactions

The person's character can be seen by his reactions to different situations. There are different situations or problems that can attract the readers to understand more about a person’s character on how he reacts and solves the situation or problems.

7) Thought

The character of the person can be known from what he is thinking about. Murphy (1972) states “the author can give us direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about” (p. 171). It means that the readers have to understand what comes to their mind about a person’s character and then conclude it.
8) Direct comment

The author describes the character by giving his or her direct comment. It is based on the author’s point of view towards the character.

9) Mannerism

The readers can understand the character through the way in which he or she behaves and talks when he is with other people. There are various behaviors from characters in the novel.

The researcher decides to apply the theories of characterization in order to get a clearer image of the character in the novels. The researcher uses some ways of the way authors reveal the character’s personality. Those are personal description, speech, thought, reactions, past life, character seen by another and mannerism.

3. Theory of Abuse

In this part, the researcher explains the definition of abuse, kinds of abuse and the impacts of abuse.

a. Definition of Abuse

According to Wilson (1996), abuse is maltreatment, injury or neglect that can take many forms. It can be physical, emotional or sexual in nature (p. 544). Abuse is categorized into several kinds in which all of them have impacts to one's personality.
b. Kinds of Abuse

Wilson (1996) states that abuse is categorized into physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Hunt (2010), adds verbal abuse as one type of abuse.

1) Physical Abuse

Wilson (1996) states “physical abuse toward a partner or child refers to acts or physical aggression by one individual against the other. The acts are include slapping, hitting, kicking, biting and beating” (p. 544). Physical abuse of children is physical aggression or neglect that has injurious effects on a child. Child as the victim of abuse can be observed easily by marks or scars in his or her body.

2) Sexual Abuse

Wilson (1996) explains that sexual abuse is also included in child abuse. It means “sexual activity imposed or forced on a child” (p. 551). It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondle the adult's genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation. Sexual abuse happens because there is a deviation on sexual desire of the doer.

3) Emotional Abuse

Wilson (1996) states that “emotional abuse is behavior that is harsh, critical, and overly demanding toward someone.” (p. 551). Emotional abuse has bad impacts on victim's psychological life. Emotional abuse is any ongoing negative behavior used to control or hurt another person and it scars the spirit of the one abused. The abusers conduct some actions of emotional abuse to treat the victim in order to control and gain compliance.
Emotional abuse creates a climate of fear to the victims and it can change their personality indirectly. Emotional abuse causes a long-term psychological harm and impacts victims' perspective in seeing their life. They will feel hopeless, worthless, unwanted, unloved and they will also experience maladjustment.

4) **Verbal Abuse**

According to Hunt (2010), verbal abuses is the use of words or tone of voice in an attempt to control or hurt another person and to destroy that person's self-worth. Verbal abuse happens when the abuser verbally assaults the victim to create a climate of fear and gain control over the victim. Hunt gives some examples of verbally abusive language such as controlling with criticism or sarcasm, disempowering by continually dictating orders, intimidating by yelling or threats, overpowering by always claiming to be right and silencing with constant interruptions or changing topics (p. 166).

5) **Neglect**

According to Wilson (1996), neglect means “an inadequate supervision and lack of attention to the physical and emotional needs of the child” (p. 556). In other words, it is a failure of a parent or caregiver to provide minimal care and support for children. It includes physical, educational, and psychological neglect. Physical neglect includes not providing sufficient food, clothing, and medical care. Educational neglect includes failure in providing appropriate schooling and educational needs. Lacking of any emotional support and love and not attending the child's birthday can be categorized as psychological neglect.
There are three types of abuse used in this study. First is physical abuse, the second is emotional abuse and the last is neglect.

c. Impact of Abuse

Wilson points out some examples about the impact of abuse that is experienced by abused children. He states:

Anxiety symptoms in the form of post-traumatic stress disorder are also commonly found in children who have been severely abused. Such symptoms may include memories that intrude into the child's mind, even though they are stressful and unwanted. In addition, a numbing or deadening of sensations often occurs, because allowing sensations to come into consciousness may make the child anxious or depressed (p. 553).

According to Child Welfare Information Gateway (2013), the impact of child abuse is discussed in terms of physical health, psychological and behavioral consequences. These are the impacts of each term:

1) Physical Health Consequences

Child abuse can have a multitude of long-term effects on physical health. One of the effects is abusive head trauma. Abusive head trauma is an inflicted injury to the head and its contents caused by shaking and blunt impact.

2) Psychological Consequences

The immediate emotional effects of abuse are isolation, fear and an inability to trust. It can translate into lifelong psychological consequences including low self-esteem, depression and relationship difficulties. Abuse is also affect the victim's cognitive and social. Children with substantiated reports of maltreatment were at risk for severe developmental and cognitive problem. In social difficulties, children who experience abuse and neglect are more likely to develop antisocial traits as they grow up.
3) **Behavioral Consequences**

There are only some victims of child abuse and neglect who will experience behavioral consequences. They will find difficulties during adolescence like risk of grade repetition, substance abuse, delinquency, truancy, or pregnancy. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect will smoke cigarettes, abuse alcohol, or take illicit drugs during their lifetime. They will also tend to have abusive behavior.

In this study, the researcher discusses the impact of physical abuse in term of physical and psychological consequences.

4. **Theory of Personality Development**

The researcher uses the psychological study to gain understanding and knowledge about Dave’s personality, behavior, and the impact of abuse to his personality development. Kalish (1973) states that “personality is the dynamic organization of characteristics attributes leading to behavior and distinguishing one individual from other individual” (p. 52). Personality has been viewed as the individual’s most dominant characteristics such as the way of acting, thinking, and feeling, that make each person different from other person. An understanding of someone’s personality development is important to know about the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth that someone go through from birth until old age.

The researcher uses Erikson’s psychosocial theory in analyzing Dave’s personality in this study. Feist (2006) discusses Erikson's psychosocial theory.
Erikson continued Freud’s work by describing stages of development to include all of the human lifespan. Erikson believes that someone’s personality is influenced by his or her environment. As people grow, they face a series of psychosocial crises that shape personality. According to Erikson, each crisis focuses on a particular aspect of personality and involves the person’s relationship with other people.


According to Feist (2006), Erikson was optimistic in suggesting that people can successfully handle the crisis of any given stage even though they were not completely successful in previous stages (p. 254). In analyzing Dave’s personality development in the novels, the researcher uses the first six stages of Erikson’s psychosocial theory. The stages which refer to Dave’s life happen in a range between 4 years to adulthood. It is important to understand the personality development across the lifespan, particularly how abuse influences someone’s personality development. Here is the explanation of each stage:
1. **Infancy: Basic Trust versus Basic Mistrust**

The domain of this stage is infancy period from birth to 18 months. Erikson as cited in Feist (p. 248) states that “infancy is a time of incorporation, with infants “taking in” not only through their mouth but through their various sense organs as well.” As they take in food and sensory information, infants learn to either trust or mistrust the outside world, a situation that gives them realistic hope. Infants’ most significant interpersonal relations are with their primary caregiver, their mother.

The inevitable clash between basic trust and basic mistrust result in people’s first psychosocial crisis. If a child successfully solves this crisis, he will acquire his first basic strength—hope. The child also will feel safe and secure in the world.

2. **Early Childhood: Autonomy versus Shame and Doubt**

The domain of this stage is between the ages of 2 to 3. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), early childhood is a time of experiencing doubt and shame as children learn that many of their attempts at autonomy are unsuccessful (p. 250). In this stage, children need to develop a sense of independence and a sense of personal control over physical skills. If a child is success in this stage, it leads to feelings of security and confidence while a child fails the results are feeling of shame and doubt.

Autonomy grows out of basic trust and if basic trust has been established in infancy, then children learn to have faith in themselves and their world remains
intact while they experience a mild psychosocial crisis. If children do not develop basic trust during infancy, they will feel a strong sense of shame and doubt, setting up a serious psychosocial crisis.

3. **Play Age: Initiative versus Guilt**

   This stage happens in play age period at the ages of 3 to 5. Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) explains that in addition to identifying with their parents, preschool-age children are developing locomotion, language skills, curiosity, imagination, and the ability to set goals. In this stage, children need to begin asserting control and power over the environment. Children who are successful at this stage feel capable and able to lead others. Those who fail to acquire these skills are left with a sense of guilt, self-doubt, and lack of initiative.

4. **School Age: Industry versus Inferiority**

   This stage happens in school age at the ages of 5 to 11. Children in this stage need to cope with new social and academic demands. Success leads to a sense of competence, while failure results in feelings of inferiority. Through social interactions, children begin to develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments and abilities. Children who are encouraged and commended by parents and teachers develop a feeling of competence and belief in their skills. Those who receive little or no encouragement from parents, teachers or peers will doubt their abilities to be successful.
5. Adolescence: Identity versus Identity confusion

This stage happens in adolescence period between the ages of 12 to 18. This period from puberty to young adulthood is one of the most crucial developmental stages because by the end of this period, a person must gain a firm sense of ego identity. The search for ego identity reaches a climax during adolescence as young people strive to find out who they are and who they are not. Teens tend to develop a sense of self and personal identity. Success leads to an ability to stay true to them, while failure leads to role confusion and a weak sense of self.

Young people frequently reject the standards of their elders, preferring instead the values of a peer group or gang. In any event, the society in which they live plays a substantial role in shaping their identity. Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) states that “young people must experience some doubt and confusion about who they are before they can evolve a stable identity” (p. 256).

6. Young Adulthood: Intimacy versus Isolation

This stage happens in young adulthood at the ages of 19 to 30. Young adults should develop mature genitality, experience the conflict between intimacy and isolation and acquire the basic strength of love. Success leads to strong relationship, while failure results in loneliness and isolation. Successful resolution of this stage results in the ability to form lasting, meaningful relationships with other people.
Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) states that once young people know who they are and where they are going, the stage is set for the sharing of their life with another. The young adult is now ready to form a new relationship of trust and intimacy with another individual, a “partner in friendship, sex, competition and cooperation.” This relationship should enhance the identity of both partners without stifling the growth of either.

7. Adulthood: Generativity versus Stagnation

This stage of adulthood happens at the ages of 31 to 60. Adulthood is characterized by the psychosocial mode of procreativity, the psychosocial crisis of generativity versus stagnation and the basic strength of care. Adults need to create or nurture things that will outlast them, often by having children or creating a positive change that benefits other people.

As the basic strength of adulthood, care arises from each of earlier basic ego strength. One must have hope, will, purpose, competence, fidelity and love in order to take care of that which one cares for.

8. Old Age: Integrity versus Despair

This stage happens at the age of 60 until the end of life. Older adults need to look back on life and feel a sense of fulfillment. Success at this stage leads to feelings of wisdom while failure results in regret, bitterness and despair. The basic strength of old age is wisdom.
C. Theoretical Framework

This study discusses Dave's characteristics and Dave’s personality development in his trilogy novels. The objectives are to describe Dave’s characteristics and his personality development. In answering the formulated problems, the researcher uses A Child Called “It”, The Lost Boy, and A Man Named Dave novels. The theories that are used in this study are the theory of critical approach, the theory of character and characterization, the theory of abuse and the theory of personality development.

The theory of critical approach is used to decide the most appropriate approach in analyzing the novels. The theory of character and characterization is used in answering the first problem. It is used to give clear explanation to readers about Dave's personality description. In understanding the impact of some abuses on Dave’s personality development, the researcher uses the theory of abuse. Then, the theory of personality development is used to know how someone’s personality develops and also how personality can be influenced by some factors such as abuse.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists of three parts which give the readers more understanding about the study. The parts are the object of the study, the approach of the study and the method of the study. The subject matter of the study describes physical description of the novels and brief summary of what generally the novels talk about. The approach of the study presents the appropriate approach used in this study to analyze the novels. The method of the study describes the steps taken to analyze the work, starting with reading up the work to reporting the finding.

A. Object of the Study

This thesis studies the trilogy of David James Pelzer's autobiography, A Child Called 'It', The Lost Boy and A Man Named Dave. The first volume of Dave's autobiography entitled A Child Called 'It' tells about Dave when he was 4 years old until 12 years old. This novel describes many kinds of abuse experienced by Dave. The novel was told from Dave’s point of view. This novel was written in 1995 and it consists of 169 pages which was divided into 7 parts. In the beginning of this novel, Dave told the readers about his happy life. Before Dave was 4 years old, he was a child who lived happily with his parents and two brothers. His father was a fireman and his mother was a housewife who was good at cooking. She always asked her children to go out and taught them many things.
Unfortunately, Dave’s mother behavior changed suddenly. His alcoholic mother started to abuse and beat him. Dave's life began to change when his teacher at the school and the police took actions to help Dave to escape from his house.

The second volume of Dave's trilogy is *The Lost Boy*. It was written in 1997 and it consists of 340 pages. It told the story after he was rescued from his abusive mother by the police. Dave was taken to the foster care system until the age of 18. This novel presented his ability to adapt to the new environment around him as a foster child. It also told about the kindness of his foster parents and other people around him. Dave never stopped hoping and seeking for the love of a real family. Finally, he found the love of a family in the hand of his foster parents.

*A Man Named Dave* is the last part of Dave's trilogy which consists of 426 pages. This novel presented Dave’s adult life. The story told Dave's struggles to earn money and to survive in the society. It also described how he tried to overcome his memories as an abused child. After a long time of struggle, in this novel, finally he was able to forget his past. He was able to love, to trust and to live as a man named Dave. Those three novels were published in Great Britain by the same publisher, Orion Media.

B. Approach of the Study

The purposes of the study are to describe Dave’s characteristics from each novel and Dave Pelzer's personality development which is analyzed using Erikson’s psychosocial theory. To achieve these purposes, psychological approach was applied in this study. Rohrberger and Woods Jr (1971) state that the
psychological approach is an approach that applies psychological theories to explain human motivation, personality and behavior written in literary object (pp. 13-15).

Psychological approach was chosen to analyze these three trilogy novels because this study dealt with psychological aspects in human thoughts and behavior. In this study, the changes of the author's personality were caused by his experience of being abused.

C. Method of the Study

In doing this study, the researcher used two kinds of sources, namely primary sources and secondary sources. The primary sources were the three novels of Dave Pelzer's autobiography; *A Child Called ‘It’, The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*. The secondary sources were literary, human psychology books and online source. As the method of study, the researcher used library research.

In order to analyze those three novels, there were some steps taken by the researcher. First, the researcher started to read the novels. The researcher read the whole parts of the novels several times in order to get deeper understanding about the novels. Second, the researcher decided the aspects to be analyzed in those trilogy novels. Since the trilogy novels told about child abuse, the researcher tried to find several sources from books and electronic sources about child abuse. From this step, the researcher was interested in analyzing the personality development of Dave Pelzer as an abused child who was the main character of his autobiographical trilogy novels.
Third, the researcher looked for the psychological theories from books and electronic sources used in analyzing Dave Pelzer’s characterization and personality development. After reading some sources, the researcher took notes in order to find the related theories. Fourth, since this thesis focused on the psychological aspects of the novels, the researcher chose the psychological approach to analyze the trilogy of Dave Pelzer's autobiography. The researcher used psychological theories from some experts. The researcher also had a consultation with a psychology lecturer from Psychology Department to discuss the theory that can be used to analyze the novels. The researcher used the theory of personality development by Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) and the theory of abuse by Wilson (1996). Those theories were applied in order to analyze Dave's personality development in the novels. The next step was making draft of the writing from each chapter. After finishing the draft, the researcher tried to develop ideas into paragraphs. The last step was drawing a conclusion. The conclusion contained the statement of the findings in the analysis.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter presents Dave’s characteristics and the analysis on his personality development in the trilogy: *A Child Called “It”, The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*. There are two formulated problems answered in this chapter. The discussion is classified into three parts. The first part focuses on the characteristics of Dave Pelzer in the novels. The second part focuses on the factors that influence Dave’s personality development. The last part focuses on the Dave’s personality development.

A. The Characteristics of Dave Pelzer

Dave Pelzer is the major character and the center of the story in his trilogy novels: *A Child Called “It”, The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*. According to Perrine (1974), Dave is categorized into a dynamic character. Dave’s characteristics changes by the influence of the surrounding environment and his past experience. Throughout the novels, his characteristics before, during and after the abuse are described in the novels. Dave’s characteristics are discussed by using Murphy’s theory of characterization and Erikson’s psychosocial theory. Murphy’s theory consists of some ways to identify the characteristics of character. Murphy defines that the term of characteristic refers to the way the author reveals his or her character’s personality. Erikson’s theory is used because it gives
understanding about the reason why some characteristics appear in the second and third novel.

In this section, the researcher identified Dave’s characteristics by analyzing each novel because they portray of Dave’s experience as a victim of the abuse. The first novel, *A Child Called “It”*, is based on the Dave’s life when he is 4 to 12 years old. The second novel, *The Lost Boy*, is based on his life when he is 12 to 18 years old. The third novel, *A Man Named Dave*, is based on Dave’s life from the age of 18 until his adulthood. The researcher analyzed these three novels to show the development of Dave’s personality through his characteristics.

The researcher identified that there are some major characteristics appear in each novel. In the first novel, Dave is described as a loving person. On the other hand, he is a timid and submissive person. He also has a low self-esteem. In the second novel, the researcher identified Dave’s major characteristics are still a timid and submissive person. However, he then changes into an independent and curious person. There are three characteristics of Dave that are identified from the third novel. His characteristics are developed into an independent person who has high self-esteem. He is able to regain his self-esteem. The researcher divided the explanation on Dave’s characteristics based on two theories: Murphy’s theory and Erikson’s theory. The characteristics are described as follows:

a. **Dave’s Characteristics in *A Child Called “It”***

   The first novel described Dave’s characteristics when he experienced the abuse at the ages of 4 to 12. The researcher used Murphy’s theory and Erikson’s
theory in discussing Dave’s characteristics. The following sections are Dave’s characteristics in the first novel.

1. Timid

Dave is identified as a timid person through the theory of characterization proposed by Murphy (1972). Murphy’s theory of personal description and thought were used in analyzing Dave’s characteristic as a timid person. In the first novel, Dave is described as a child who has low confidence about his appearance. Dave’s problem of confidence in the novel affects his thought. It can be seen from his thought about his appearance. When Dave is in the fifth grade, he thinks that he does not have a good appearance. His mother does not give him proper clothes in which he wears the same clothes to school every day for two years. It can be seen from the statement in the novel:

My long sleeve shirt has more holes than Swiss cheese. It’s the same shirt I’ve worn for about two years. Mother has me wear it every day as her way to humiliate me. My pants are just as bad and my shoes have holes in the toes. I can wiggle my big toe out of one of them (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 6)

… Mother had me wear the same clothes week after week, by October my clothes had become weathered, torn and smelly. (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 47)

The quotation clearly describes that Dave’s mother wants to humiliate him by ordering him to wear the same clothes for two years. Dave’s mother never buys new shoes and shirts. He has to go to school by wearing his long sleeve shirt, pants and shoes with many holes on it. Because of his bad appearance, he has no friends in the school. Then, he does not have courage to make friends with his classmates.
Besides, Dave who has a low confidence can also be seen from his own perception on how he describes himself. It can be seen in the statements of the novel:

Upon entering the room, all the students plug their noses and hiss at me. The substitute teacher, a younger woman, waves her hands in front of her face. She’s not used to my smell. At arm’s length she hands my test to me, but before I can take my seat in the back of the class by an open window, I’m summoned back to the principal’s office. The entire room lets out a howl at me – the reject of the fifth grade (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 9).

Dave is a child who lacks of confidence and his appearance gives the impact on his social life in the school. As stated in the quotation before, Dave’s appearance influences his thought. He lacks of confidence about his appearance because the students in the class consider him as a smelly child and then they reject him. Dave’s lacking of confidence can be seen from Dave’s personal description and Dave’s thought on how he looks and what he wears.

Based on Erikson’s psychosocial theory, Dave is in the fourth stage of developmental stages of industry versus inferiority. Dave is described as a timid person when he is 10 years old. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), children in this stage, need to cope with new social and academic demands. Based on Erikson’s theory, Dave becomes a timid person because he has a feeling of inferiority. His mother makes him become an inferior person by giving him improper clothes. Moreover, Dave’s lacking of confidence influences his social life. The feeling of timid appears because there is no encouragement from people around him. The environment around Dave (parents, friends and teachers) does not support his abilities in overcoming new social and academic demands. This condition makes him to have low confidence to make friends in the school,
2. Submissive

Based on Murphy’s theory of characterization, particularly about reactions, Dave is identified as a submissive person. Dave’s characteristic can be seen by his reactions towards different situations. When Dave is 10 years old, his mother always has new plans to make Dave to obey her command. Dave’s fear of his mother makes him become a submissive person. Dave also lets himself to be controlled by his mother. He is also afraid of his mother. He is afraid to move or even to speak without his mother’s permission at home. If he does not obey his mother’s command, his mother beats him and punishes him. It is stated in the novel: “If I looked at her or one of her sons without her permissions, I received a slap in the face” (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 83). Dave’s reaction to the situation in the novel shows that he is a submissive person.

The other proof that identifies Dave as a submissive person based on his reactions is when his mother ordered him to lay down in the bathtub full of cold water. Dave feels like he is in the refrigerator at that time. Dave’s mother also orders him to put his head under the water. He can see the bubbles escape from his mouth and float to the surface as he tries to shout. Although his mother does not see him, Dave still obeys his mother command. It can be proven from the statement: “I was too frightened of Mother to move, so I kept my head under the surface as ordered” (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 113). Dave obeys his mother’s command because of fear.

Dave’s mother also likes to make him suffer. On the Christmas Day, Dave receives a pair of roller skates. In the weekend, his mother orders him to skate
outside while others are inside because of the cold weather. He is the only child who plays the roller skates outside the house without wearing a jacket. He is not allowed to go inside his house unless his mother calls him to do some chores. As stated in the novel:

The skates proved to be just another tool for Mother to get me out of the house and make me suffer. On weekends Mother made me skate outside when the other children were inside because of the chilly weather. I skated up and down the block, without even a jacket to keep me warm. I was the only child outside in the neighborhood…In an effort to keep warm, I skated as fast as I could. I could see smoke rising from the chimneys of houses that had fireplaces. I wished that I could be inside, sitting by a fire. Mother had me skate for hours at a time. She called me in, only when she wanted me to complete some chores for her (A Child Called ‘It’, pp.120-121).

Dave obeys all of his mother’s command without complaining. It shows that Dave is a child who has a feeling of fear to his mother. He must obey his mother’s command although he does not want to do that. He knows that if he does not obey his mother’s command, he will receive the consequences. The characteristics of Dave as a submissive person can be seen through his reactions in different situations faced by him.

According to Erikson’s psychosocial theory, children in the fourth stage need support from their environment. Through social interaction, children begin to develop a sense of pride in their social and academic accomplishments and abilities. If they do not get support from their parents, teachers or friends, they will develop a sense of inferiority. In this novel, his mother’s tortures make Dave develop a sense of inferiority. He does not get support from his mother. Dave’s inferiority makes him become a submissive person. He lives under pressure
because his life is controlled by his mother. He does not have a chance to develop his social and academic ability.

3. **Low Self-Esteem**

Using Murphy’s theory of thought, reactions and past life (1972), Dave is identified as a person who has a low self-esteem. According to Maslow as cited in Kalish (1971), each person has desires for reputation, status, fame, dominance, recognition, attention, importance, dignity and appreciation that come from others to fulfill the esteem needs (pp. 45-46). The fulfillment of someone’s self-esteem is influenced by his society. If someone does not get the influence from others, he cannot fulfill the esteem needs well. Self-esteem in this study is the fulfillment of Dave’s recognition and dignity. During the abuse, Dave’s self-esteem decreases. At the time during the abuse, Dave’s mother refuses to give him the status as a child in the family. Dave is not considered as the member of the family and her mother even calls him as an ‘It’. As stated in the novel:

… I was no longer a member of the family. I existed, but there was little or no recognition. Mother had even stopped using my name; referring to me only as The Boy. I was not allowed to eat meals with the family, play with my brothers, or watch television. I was grounded to the house. I was not allowed to look at or speak to anybody (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 50)

Dave’s mother does not recognize him as a part of the family. He does not get the recognition from his mother. It makes Dave’s self-esteem decrease. Her mother only considers Dave’s brother as her children. Dave’s mother also calls him “It”, not his name. It can be proven in the novel: “You are a nobody! An It! You are nonexistent! You are a bastard child! I hate you and I wish you were dead!” (A Child Called ‘It’, p. 140).
Dave wants to show to his mother that he is not a bad boy. One day, Dave tries to join competition at school in giving the name for the school’s newspaper. Dave wins the competition and his teacher, Mr. Ziegler, is proud of him. Dave really wants to make his mother proud of him by giving the achievement from the school but his mother still does not appreciate it. It can be proven in the novel:

Elated, I ran to Mother’s house faster than ever before. As I should have expected, my happiness was short-lived. The Bitch tore the letter open, read it quickly and scoffed, “Well, Mr. Ziegler says I should be so proud of you for naming the school newspaper. He also claims that you are one of the top pupils in his class. Well, aren’t you special?” Suddenly, her voice turned ice cold and she jabbed her finger at my face and hissed, “Get one thing straight, you little son of a bitch! There is nothing you can do to impress me! Do you understand me? (A Child Called ’It’, p. 140)

Dave thinks that he has no self-worth. He feels a little or even no recognition from his mother. It can be proven in the novel:

She had stripped me of my very existence. I gave all that I could to accomplish anything positive for her recognition. But again, I failed. My heart sank lower than ever before. Mother’s words were no longer coming from the booze; they were coming from her heart (A Child Called ’It’, pp. 140-141)

Based on Dave’s thought as a child who does not have recognition in his family, the researcher concludes that Dave has a low self-esteem. It can be known his thought about himself as a child who does not deserve attention and recognition.

During the abuse when he is in the fourth grade, Dave blames and hates himself. Dave blames himself for being the cause of all the problems in his family. It can be proven from the statements in the novel:

At the core of my soul, I hated myself more than anybody or anything. I came to believe that everything that happened to me or around me was my own fault because I had let it go on for so long. I wanted what others had, but saw no way to get it, so I hated them for having it. I wanted to be strong, but inside I knew I was a wimp. I never had the courage to stand up
to The Bitch, so I knew I deserved whatever happened to me (A Child Called 'It', p. 136)

Dave hates himself because he feels that he is the main reason of his father’s leaving. Before Dave’s father leaves home, he says to Dave that Dave is one of the reasons why he leaves. Dave also feels that he is the cause of all problems that he has. For many years, Dave’s mother has brainwashed him by ordering him to shout aloud “I hate myself.” It makes Dave hate himself so much and sometimes he thinks that he wants to die. By using Murphy’s theory of thought, Dave’s self-esteem decreases since he hates himself.

The situation when Dave is treated inhumanly by his mother forces him to forget his dignity. Dave has to force himself to make his status lower than a human being in order to survive from his mother’s abusive treatments. It can be seen in the situation when Dave is so starving because his mother never gives him enough food. Therefore, Dave decides to steal the frozen meat from the cafeteria in his school. Unfortunately, Dave’s mother knows about it and she punishes him. She orders Dave to vomit the frozen meat to the toilet. Then, she asks Dave to take the digested food and put it in to the bowl, after that he is ordered to eat the meat he has vomited in front of his father. He cannot do anything except obey his mother’s command. As stated in the novel:

I sat on a chair and picked the clumps of hot dogs out of the bowl with my hand. Globs of thick saliva slipped through my fingers, as I dropped it in my mouth. I tried to swallow without tasting, until I felt a hand clamp on the back of my neck. “Chew it!” Mother snarled, “Eat it! Eat it all” she said, pointing to the saliva. A river of tears rolled down my cheeks. After I had chewed the mess in the bowl, I tilted my head back and forced what remained, down my throat. The man who had helped me in the past, just stood like a statue while his son ate something even a dog wouldn’t touch (A Child Called ‘It’, pp. 66-67).
The other proof to show that Dave has a low self-esteem is when his mother orders him to eat his brother’s diaper. His mother slams his face into his brother’s diaper and rubs it from side to side. It can be proven in the novel:

She grabbed me by the back of the neck and led me to the kitchen. There, spread out on the counter top, was another full diaper. The smell turned my stomach. “Now, you are going to eat it!” she said. I knew I needed to lock my concentration on something, in order to keep any kind of control of the situation. Before I could find the clock, Mother’s hands seized my neck. Again, she repeated, “Eat it!” I held my breath. The smell was overpowering. I tried to focus on the top corner of the diaper. Seconds seemed like hours. Mother must have known my plan. She slammed my face into the diaper and rubbed it from side to side (*A Child Called ‘It’,* p. 56)

Dave’s reactions in those situations makes Dave become someone who has low self-esteem. He is forced by his mother to eat the digested food and his brother poop. It makes Dave feel that he does not have dignity anymore.

The next proof that shows the decreasing of self-esteem based on Murphy’s theory of reactions is when his mother ordered him to swallow a spoonful of Clorox and a pink liquid soap. By swallowing the Clorox and the soap, he drinks much water to ease the pain of his throat, and it makes his stomach becomes full of water. As the result, Dave gets a diarrhea. He cries like a baby who is begging his mother to use the toilet upstairs but unfortunately, his mother does not allow him to use it. It is stated in the novel:

I had no self-respect of any kind. I needed to go to the bathroom again but I was too afraid to move. Finally, as my insides twisted and turned, I gathered the last of my dignity. I waddled to the garage sink, grabbed a five gallons bucket and squatted to relieve myself ... I felt lower than a dog (*A Child Called ‘It’,* p. 77).
Dave has to use the garage sink because his mother does not allow him to use the toilet upstairs. He feels lower than a dog. Dave’s father knows about it but he does nothing to help Dave. It makes Dave feel that he has lost his dignity. Dave has to ignore his dignity in order to survive from his mother’s torture.

Based on the quotations above and its analysis, Dave is described as a person who has a low self-esteem when he is a child. It can be seen from his thought about himself as a child called “It” and his reactions to the situations faced by him.

Taking on the Erikson’s psychosocial theory of the fourth stage that is industry versus inferiority, Dave receives no encouragement from parents, teachers and his peers. It makes Dave cannot develop his abilities to be successful. He becomes a person who has low self-esteem because he does not receive encouragement from his mother. His mother does not appreciate Dave’s work. Dave also receives tortures from his mother physically and emotionally.

4. Loving Person

Using Murphy’s theory of mannerism, Dave is identified as a loving person. At the time before the abuse, Dave loves his family very much. He always gets affection from his parents. He admires his father as a strong fireman and his mother as a great housewife. Dave is still a loving person when he is in the fifth grade. In the time when he is abused by his mother, he shows his love to his brother, Kevin, who is still a baby. It can be proven through these statements: “The only thing that kept me sane was my baby brother Kevin. He was a beautiful
baby and I loved him.” (*A Child Called ‘It’,* p. 143). Dave really loves Kevin although he is not allowed to look at Kevin or his other brothers. As stated in the novel:

> I enjoyed watching him crawl around in his cute outfit. I thought he was beautiful. When Kevin lifted his head and smiled at me, my heart melted. He made me forget my suffering for a while. His innocence was hypnotic as I followed him around the house; I wiped the drool from his mouth and stayed one step behind him so he wouldn’t get hurt. Before Mother returned, I played a game of patty cake with him. The sound of Kevin’s laughter filled my heart with warmth, and later, whenever I felt depressed I thought of him. I smiled inside when I heard Kevin cry out in joy (*A Child Called ‘It’,* pp. 144-145).

The quotation above shows that Dave loves Kevin very much. The feeling of love between siblings is able to make Dave forget his suffering for a while. He feels comfortable whenever he sees and hears baby Kevin crying.

As a son, Dave also has a feeling of love to his father. He feels safe beside his father. Dave feels that his father is his protector. Dave feels safe, although Dave’s father cannot help him in every situation. As stated in the statements:

> “When he was home, Mother only did about half the things to me that she did when he was gone.” (*A Child Called ‘It’,* p. 101). Dave has a dream to live with his father in a house near Russian River someday. Dave believes that he and his father will live happily without his mother. The feeling of love towards his father can be seen when his father decides to leave home. It is stated in the novel:

> I usually stayed in bed and rolled over to the warm place where he had slept. I imagined that I could hear him long after he was gone. And when I accepted the fact that he was truly gone, I had a cold, hollow feeling deep in my soul. I loved father so much. I wanted to be with him forever, and I cried inside because I never knew when I was going to see Father again (pp. 127-128).
Dave feels sad when his father leaves him. He feels alone at home. He wants to be with his father forever. Therefore, the researcher concludes that Dave is a loving person who loves his brother through his manner towards his youngest brother and his father.

Dave is in the fourth stage of Erikson’s psychosocial theory when he is abused by his mother. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), people need to achieve the result positively to move to the next stage. Dave has passed the first three stages positively. The first stage of Erikson’s developmental stages is basic trust versus basic mistrust. Dave develops his trust to his father and brother as the result of first stage, basic trust. He feels comfortable with them. Dave’s comfortable feeling makes him become a loving person.

b. Dave’s Characteristic in The Lost Boy

This second novel describes Dave’s characteristics after he has been abused. It is based on Dave’s life when he is 12 to 18 years old.

1. Timid

Using Murphy’s theory of personal description and thought, Dave is identified as a timid person. In this novel, timid means having lack of confidence. The description of Dave who feels lack of confidence about his physical appearance can be identified in this second novel. After he is rescued from his abusive mother by the police, they drive him to the county hospital. He is taken to an examination room. At that time, the nurse is shocked by his appearance. Dave starts to observe his body which is different from others. As stated in the novel:
I looked down at different parts of my body. My legs and arms were a combination of yellow and brown. Dark circles of purple bruises faded on top of fresh rings of blue bruises—where I was either grabbed, punched or slammed down on the kitchen floor. When the doctor came into the room he seemed very concerned about my hands and arms. My fingers were dry, raw and red from all the years of using the combinations of cleaning chemicals used to complete my household chores (*The Lost Boy*, p. 39)

After some years of experience abuse, Dave has many bruises on his body. His legs, arms, hands and fingers are different because of the combinations of cleaning chemicals. He feels ashamed of his appearance so that he cannot look at the nurse. It can be proven from the statement: “I couldn’t look at her. I felt so ashamed as I sat on top of the cold metal examination table, wearing only my soiled underwear briefs with holes” (*The Lost Boy*, p. 39). The feeling of shame because of his appearance makes his lacking of confidence appears.

Another characteristic of Dave as a timid person also can be seen from his relationship in the school. Dave is 13 years old when is rescued from his abused mother. He feels lack of confidence to have relationship in his new school. As stated in the novel:

> I still became lifeless and shy around my classmates. It seemed difficult for me to make friends. I stood out, especially whenever children asked why I didn’t live with my parents. And whenever some of my classmates persisted, I stuttered and turned away. I couldn’t look into their eyes. During recess, I watched the other kids laugh as they played tag and handball, while I kept to myself and wandered around the school in a daze (*The Lost Boy*, p. 80)

Dave’s characteristic as a timid person is identified from Dave’s thought. Dave feels lack of self-confidence to build the relationship with his new friends in the school. Dave is afraid whenever his friends ask him why he does not live with his parents. Dave does not have a self-confidence to tell his friends the reason why he
lives with his foster parents. Because of his status as an abused child, he feels lack of confidence. Dave also does not have bravery to join his friends play in the yard. He just wanders around the school in a daze.

Dave is in the fifth stage of Erikson’s developmental stages namely identity versus identity confusion. This stage happens in adolescence period between the ages of 12 to 18. Based on Erikson’s psychosocial theory, Dave becomes a timid person because he has a weak sense of self. Dave is rescued by the police in the age of 13. His bad appearance because of the abuse makes him feel shy in front of people. He feels lack of confidence because his status as a foster child and his past experience as an abused child. There is prejudice in the society at that time that foster child is a naughty child. Thus, he is difficult to make friends at school. His lacking of confidence about his appearance is the effect of experiencing the abuse when he is a child.

2. Submissive

Using Murphy’s theory of past life, speech and thought, the researcher found that Dave is a submissive person. Dave’s fear of his mother makes him become a submissive person. It happens when Dave tells about his past to the readers when he is abused by his mother. Because Dave’s fear of his mother, he obeys his mother’s command. As stated in the novel:

I prepare myself. Ever so slowly I slide my hands out from under my butt, but not too far-for I know sometimes she will check on me. I know I am never to move a muscle without her permission (The Lost Boy, p. 6)
Although his mother does not see him, Dave always feels afraid to do something without his mother’s permission.

Another quotation that shows Dave is a submissive person is when he tells about his story to his foster mother. He has to obey all his mother’s commands even if it makes him has no self-worth. As stated in the novel:

“I…I… remember one Saturday afternoon… she had me pick up some dog poop…and…I was in the kitchen; she was in the living room lying down on the couch watching her shows. That’s all she does, all day, every day, is watch her shows. Anyway… all I had to do was throw the poop in the garbage disposal, and she’d never know. I knew if she found out, it’d be too late. I mean, by the time she heard me turn on the disposal, it would be too late…but I ate it cause she told me to. As I did, I cried inside, not because of…but…because I had let her do that to me. For all those years I was so ashamed,” I began to whimper. “I never told. I never told… Maybe Larry’s right. Maybe I am a whimp.” (The Lost Boy, p. 102)

Dave tells his secret of his past to his foster mother. He still remembers the day when he eats the dog’s poop because her mother orders him to eat. Dave is too afraid to say no. He knows the consequences if he does not obey his mother’s command.

The next proof that shows Dave is a submissive person is when he is asked by his friend named John to help him burn the classroom. Although he knows that burning the classroom is totally wrong, he has to do that in order to be accepted by his classmates. His friends’ acceptance is important for Dave since he is lack of acceptance in his family. He thinks that if he obeys John’s command, he can be a member of John’s group. He becomes a submissive person because of his fear of John. He wants acceptance from his friends.
From those quotations and its analysis, the researcher identified that Dave is a submissive person based on his past life, his speech when he is with his foster mother and his thought. Dave realizes that the reason why he obeys his Mother commands because he feels afraid of his mother. Although Dave has been rescued from his abusive mother, the shadow of his past experience always follows him. He also feels that in order to be accepted by his friends, he has to obey John’s command although he knows that it is wrong.

Dave is in the fifth stage of Erikson’s developmental stages namely identity versus identity confusion. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), a teenager will develop a sense of self and personal identity. As a teenager, Dave feels identity confusion. Dave becomes a submissive person because he lost his self-esteem.

3. Independent

Using Murphy’s theory of thought and mannerism, Dave is identified as an independent person. After Dave is rescued by the police from his mother in the age of 12 and then lives with his foster parents, he learns to be an independent person. Dave’s foster parents are Rudy and Lilian Catanze who always encourage him to be an independent boy. It can be seen in the second novel that tells about Dave’s effort in order to fix his broken bicycle. Lilian says that if Dave wants to fix his bicycle, he has to earn some money.

The strong desire to ride his own bicycle makes him think creatively. He is helped by other foster child named Big Larry to find the quickest way to achieve
his goal. Dave starts to earn some money from Lilian by doing extra housework and gets 30 cents from her after cleaning the bathroom. He also never forgets to save his money in the jar. Therefore, he has earned over four dollars in less than a month. Dave is happy when he can buy some bicycle parts to fix his bicycle. He rides his bicycle down the street happily. As stated in the novel:

I remember August 21, 1973 as my day on my bike. That day was the first time I felt that I was a normal kid, caught up in the splendor of a never-ending day. For years I had heard the sounds of kids zooming down the street, screaming with joy as they flew by on their bikes. That day I must have ridden up and down the street a thousand times (The Lost Boy, p.107).

He is proud of himself for being independent because he can buy some bicycle parts to fix his bicycle using his own money. Through his independent thought and manner, the researcher concludes that he is an independent person.

The next proof is when Dave is 15 years old and he lives with his other foster parents named Harold and Alice. He realizes that he cannot stay at the foster home forever. He has to leave his foster home when he reaches the age of eighteen. He thinks that he has to find a job. Thus, he starts to earn money by polishing dozens of shoes so that he can earn $21.00 in just less than six hours. Dave also has another job in the watch repair shop and he can earn $10.25 a week.

An adolescent sometimes does not think about how to find a job in order to earn money. Nevertheless, Dave is different from other children in his age. It is stated in the novel: “While other kids played street ball or hung around the mall, I was becoming self-sufficient” (The Lost Boy, p. 262). He starts to think as an independent person in his adolescence. Dave also buys a bouquet of flowers for Alice and a couple of paperback books for Harold with his own money. When
Dave is 15 years old, he starts to think about his life after leaving the foster home. Through his manner, Dave is described as an independent teenager who can earn money in his young age.

According to Erikson’s theory, Dave is still in the stage of identity versus identity confusion. It is the stage in which a teenager looks for his identity. As a teenager, he knows his identity as a foster child. The foster child has to move after he reaches the age of 18. Before leaving his foster home, he tries to be an independent man by earning and saving money. He also learns from his foster mother how to cook. His status as a foster child has forced him to be an independent person.

4. Curious

Using Murphy’s theory of thought and speech, Dave is identified as a curious person. As a teenager, Dave is always curious about himself. He always wants to know the reason why his mother abuses him. He wants to know why he is the only one of his mother’s children who becomes the target of his mother’s bad attitude. As stated in the novel:

“I feel so dumb, so small. I mean, I know what happened with Mother and I was wrong and I’m really trying to forget all about it. I mean, maybe my mom’s sick. I know, it’s the booze, but I have to know: Am I sick too? Am I going to end up like her? I just want to know. I just want to know why it all happened the way it did. We were the perfect family. What happened?”

(The Lost Boy, p. 132)

Dave has many questions in his mind about his life. He wishes someday he can get the answers of his questions.
Another proof that shows Dave’s curiosity is when the social worker who helps him named Ms. Gold gives some advices for him. She says that Dave needs to be careful of what he is doing rather than trying to find the answer of his past.

It can be proven from Dave’s statements in the novel:

I don’t understand why I’m not allowed to see or to talk to her or the boys. What did I do? I just want to know …why things happened like they did. I don’t want to turn into the kind of person she is now. The psychiatrist says I should hate my mom. You tell me what I’m supposed to do (The Lost Boy, p. 166)

Dave really wants to know why his mother abuses him. It is stated in the novel:

“The two questions that tumbled over and over in my mind were whether Mother ever loved me and why she treated me the way she did” (The Lost Boy, p. 94). He thinks that he will never find the answer of his questions. Based on the quotation and its analysis, the researcher concludes that Dave is a curious person from his thought and speech.

c. Dave’s Characteristic in A Man Named Dave

This third novel describes Dave’s characteristics after he had been abused. It is based on Dave’s life when he is 12 to 18 years old.

1. Loving Person

Dave’s characteristic as a loving person still appears in the third novel by using theory of thought and mannerism proposed by Murphy (1972). Dave always considers his father as his hero and dreams about someday he and his father can live together in a house near Russian River.
Dave’s love for his father can be found in the third novel when Dave is 19 years old. After so many years he does not meet his father, he is shocked when he gets phone call from Alice stating that his father is in the hospital. His father has a cancer and he is not going to survive. In the last minutes before his father passed away, Dave is in the hospital to accompany his father. He is the only one in the hospital who takes care of his father in his last days. Before his father passed away, he says that he will always love his father. It is stated in the novel: “I always have and always will love you, Father. Now you relax…and I’ll meet you at the river” (A Man Named Dave, p. 102). The feeling of love from Dave as a son to his father also can be seen when Dave gives his father’s name, Stephen, for his son. It can be seen from Dave’s mannerism that he is a loving person.

Dave’s love to his son also shows that he is a loving person. Dave becomes paranoid because he really loves Stephen. As stated in the novel: “Since Stephen is born, I had become paranoid, not only as a parent sustaining him, but other fears like illnesses and late-night fevers” (A Man Named Dave, p. 203). As a father, Dave never forgets to see Stephen in his room after returning home from a late-night flight. If Stephen cries in the midnight, Dave will take him into his bedroom and lay him on his chest. Dave always wakes up early to spend his time with Stephen before going to work. When he go to work, he brings Stephen’s photo. Dave really enjoys his role as a father.

Dave really adores his son and feels happy as a father for the first time in his life. It is stated in the novel:

I just didn’t have the heart to confess that for the first time in my life I was filled with an emotion that I never felt before. Without a shred of
hesitation, my son, Stephen, was the first and only person I adored - that I absolutely loved with all of my heart and soul (A Man Named Dave, p. 205).

Dave cares everything about Stephen and he always makes sure that Stephen gets all the best from his parents. Dave does not want Stephen feels the same thing when he is abused. He loves Stephen with all his heart so that he wants Stephen to feel all his parents’ love.

The sixth stage of Erikson’s theory is intimacy versus isolation. This stage happens in young adulthood at the ages of 19 to 30. Young adults should develop mature genitality, experience the conflict between intimacy and isolation and acquire the basic strength of love. Success leads to strong relationship, while failure results in loneliness and isolation. In this stage, Dave wants to make meaningful relationship with his father and his son. As a son, he feel guilty because he cannot live with his father in a house near Russian River. As a father, he loves his son very much and he does not want to be an abusive parent. He is a loving person who loves his family.

2. Independent

Dave’s characteristic as an independent person also appears in the third novel by using theory of thought from Murphy (1972). The experiences of abuse make Dave become stronger. One day, he decides to meet his mother. He is not afraid to meet his mother. He knows that probably his mother will not answer his questions and tell the reasons why she treats him badly. He just wants to show his mother that he is no longer a child called ‘It’. Yet, he is an adult man who can
stand by his own feet as a man named Dave. He is successfully escape from the shadow of his dark past. It is stated in the novel about his thought:

As an adult, I fully realized I was a fairly competent, independent person. I had not only gone from an almost animalistic child to a functional, married adult, an elite air crew member with the air force, but I was also the father to an incredible boy whom without a passing thought I showered with true love (A Man Named Dave, p.210)

The quotation above shows that Dave is successful to gain his self-worth. Based on his thought, he thinks that he is an independent man who has a wife and a son whom he loves. He can earn money from his job as an air crew member with the Air Force. He realizes that the experience of abuse does not make him weak. He learns from his past and then changes to be an independent man.

According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), Dave is in the sixth stage of Erikson’s psychosocial theory namely intimacy versus isolation. In this stage, Dave sees the other things as an adult. He comes to his mother’s house in order to make a meaningful relationship with his mother. He develops become an independent man because he wants to prove to his mother that he can be an independent and successful man. He also wants to be a good husband for his wife and good father for his son. He wants to give all the best for his family.

3. High Self-Esteem

Using Murphy’s theory of character as seen by another and thought, Dave is described as a person who has a high self-esteem. In the third novel, Dave is successful to fulfill his self-esteem. One of the factors that makes Dave’s self-esteem increases is his father. Before his father passed away, Dave vows to make
his father proud of him. Dave’s father also gives Dave his badge. Dave’s father waits for Dave’s word. The nurse who takes care of his father said:

"David, Steve said, shaking his head, ‘not to worry. You already have. He told me himself. He’s proud of you. He told me you made it…that you made it out of whatever situation you were in” (A Man Named Dave, pp. 132-133).

Dave feels so proud of himself. His father’s love is enough to increase his self-esteem.

The next proof is when he becomes an air crew member. His self-esteem increases faster because the achievement that he gets.

For the first time in my life, I began to feel good about myself….I no longer wore a mantle of shame. I was becoming a real person. I could lower my guard, relax and live life.
The more I become involved as a boom operator, the more I cherished my position and a deep sense of pride was growing. I was a part of family (A Man Named Dave, p.164)

Dave’s self-esteem increases because he can be an independent person. He can achieve his dream as an air crew member and then he has his own apartment. He feels free and comfortable in his own apartment.

Dave’s pride is growing. He does not feel that he is his mother’s prison anymore. He can live independently as a boom operator and earn some money to buy his own apartment. As stated in the novel:

I had my own apartment, my home, where no one could kick me out or make me feel unwanted. I was proud that my first home was fully furnished and paid for from my years of saving (A Man Named Dave, p. 165)

From the quotations above and its analysis, it can be concluded that in the third novel, Dave is not a child who has poor self-esteem anymore. He learns from his past and tries to be a good person for others who love him. Through his thought
and others’ opinion, it is described that Dave successfully fulfills his self-esteem. He can achieve his dream and finally he can make his father proud of him.

According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), success in this stage will lead to a strong relationship. Successful resolution of this stage results in the ability to form lasting, meaningful relationships with other people. In this third novel, Dave becomes a husband and a father. His wife and his son have motivated him to forget his past and become a better person. Dave’s family love has encouraged him to fulfill his self-esteem. Their encouragement makes Dave realizes that he has to change.

B. Factors Influencing Dave’s Personality Development

As a victim of abuse, Dave’s personality develops until he reaches his adulthood. In the third novel, A Man Named Dave, tells that Dave has a good personality by showing that he is an independent and loving person and also successful to fulfill his self-esteem. He decides to tell his experience of abuse to help children who have same experience like him. It can be proven in the statements when he is talking with his first wife, Patsy:

I can help kids, the people who work with kids, corporations, the works. I know I’ll never be one of those motivational speakers you see on TV, and I don’t want to be. I can’t explain it, but I believe with all my heart I have a message that could really help a lot of people. We may not get rich, but who cares? Think about the impact we can make! (A Man Named Dave, p. 258).

He gives motivations to children at Juvenile Hall who are treated badly by his parents. Those abused children are given motivation by Dave to be stronger and survive in facing their life. He explains to them that in order to be successful, we
have to be able to forgive someone. He also gives a training program to some foster parents. He presents a program on working with children who come from abusive backgrounds and how to deal with them.

Wilson (1996), states that children who have experienced of abuse tend to get negative impacts of abuse. Children who once experienced abuse are very likely to have abusive behavior as well as drug and alcohol problem. They also tend to be abusive parents. In spite of the negative impacts that often happen to the abused children, Wilson (1996) states that some of those children do better in overcoming their trauma. Dave is an abused child who is able to overcome his problems and traumas of abuse. He has a good personality and behavior. However, Dave’s success is influenced by many factors. As stated by Erikson in Feist (2006), someone’s personality development is influenced by his social environment. Dave’s social environment gives big influence for Dave’s personality development. Dave gets encouragement from his environment so that he is motivated to be a better person and forgets his past. He is able to use his past to motivate him to a brighter future. In dealing with his problems as the victim of abuse, he gets huge motivations from many people around him like his foster parents, his wife and his son.

1. Foster Parents’ Influence

Foster home is a whole new world for Dave. He gets the love of a real family in the arms of his foster parents. Because of his foster parents’ love, Dave becomes a real person. The experience of child abuse makes Dave’s academic
ability decreases. Alice Turnbough is one of Dave’s foster mothers who always help him in study. She teaches Dave how to speak in front of many people and write in a good way. It can be proven in the novel:

At Alice’s home I found myself opening up to her about everything, all the time. Sometimes she and I would gab far into the early morning hours. I never worried about how I talked or what I said. Whenever I became nervous and began to stutter, Alice would teach me how to slow down my train of thought, and have me pictured myself saying the words before I spoke them. Within a few weeks, my speech problem disappeared (The Lost Boy, p. 259)

Dave also gives his best regards for his parents, The Turnboughs’ family. As stated in the novel:

The Turnboughs were a god-send, with something so simple as teaching me how to walk, talk and act like a normal child, while assuring me that I was worthy and could overcome any challenge that life had to offer (The Lost Boy, p.313)

Dave says that he wants to give the highest compliments to his foster mother, Alice. He says that Alice is his son’s grandmother. As a foster child, he never forgets his foster parents.

The encouragement from Dave’s foster parents makes him successful enlisted into the United States Air Force. He realizes that his lifelong search for love and acceptance finally ended in the arms of foster parents. Before he leaves home to join a basic training, he gives kiss to his foster mother Alice and shaking Harold’s hand, his father. As stated in the novel: “I opened my mouth to say something appropriate. But this moment in time needed no words, for we knew what we all felt-the love of a family” (The Lost Boy, p. 297). The love from his foster parents has motivated Dave to be a stronger and better person.
2. **Marsha Donohoe**

   Dave has married two times. His first wife named Patsy. Patsy and Dave separated after eight years of marriage. His second wife named Marsha. Marsha works as an assistant editor at Publishing Company. She helps Dave to publish Dave’s first book entitled *A Child Called “It”*. After discussing about the book for many times, Marsha becomes Dave’s true friend. As they become closer, Dave starts to tell about his past to Marsha. They love each other and then decide to get married. Marsha always helps Dave to forget his dark past. She gives affection and motivations to Dave. It can be proven in the novel:

   “After all you’ve been through, no matter what happens to us, Dave, you deserve everything life has to offer. I’m so proud of you, I could just bust. You’re the most inspirational person I know. You’re my Robin Williams and Jimmy Stewart rolled into one. And I’m not saying that because I’ve got some schoolgirl crush on you. No matter what, you’re precious to me. No matter what, with all my heart, I believe. I believe in you, Dave Pelzer. *(A Man Named Dave, p. 298)*.

   The motivations from his wife make Dave realizes that he has to do something for himself. He decides to be a motivator and shares his abuse experience to the abused children in Juvenille Hall. He wants to create a better world without abuse. He also wants to make his son, Stephen, proud of him. He does not want Stephen feel the same experience like him.

C. **Dave’s Personality Development**

   In this part, the researcher answers the second question about Dave’s personality development analyzed by Erikson’s psychosocial theory. The human’s personality such as thought and behavior are constantly changing because of some
factors. The abuse is one of many factors that lead someone’s thought and behavior into a development of personality. According to Hurlock (1974), the family influences personality development by molding and communicating. One of the factors that can change someone’s personality is abuse. Children get their early experiences from their home and their parents. Thus, family plays the important roles in shaping the children's personality pattern. The abusive treatments from the parents will influence children's personality development.

In these trilogy novels, the readers can see Dave as three different characters: Dave as a child, Dave as a teenager and Dave as an adult. The story in the first novel is based on a child’s perspective, the second novel is based on a teenager’s perspective and the third novel is based on an adult’s perspective. The abuses that are committed by Dave’s mother are the main factor that is responsible for the development of Dave’s personality. Dave Pelzer, as the main character in these novels, gets the impact of abuse to his personality. Before Dave is abused, he is a child who has a high self-esteem. He lives happily with his loving parents and two brothers. His father is a fireman and his mother is a good housewife. He adores his mother as a woman who always gives her best to her family. The love that he receives from his parents makes him always feel happy. However, some of his personalities turn into negative at the time when he is abused. He lives as a child who always feels afraid of his mother, lack of confidence and has low self-esteem. In the second novel, he lives with his foster parents. As a foster child, he has to move to other foster homes for many times. Dave is a teenager who is looking for his identity. Dave feels identity confusion that makes him become a
timid and submissive person. He tries to be accepted by his society. He wants to be loved by everyone.

The abuse experienced by Dave also changes him become a stronger person. In the last novel when Dave reaches his adulthood, his personality turns into positive. It is because of his strength and his motivation from others so that he can deal with his shadow of dark past. The changes of Dave’s personality in the third novel are showed when he met his mother. As an adult, Dave realizes that he get the experience of abuse when he is a child. Therefore, he wants to find the answer of his questions. He wants to know why his mother treats him badly. Finally in the third novel, he comes to his mother as a man named Dave who is independent, confident and has a high self-esteem. He wants to prove to his mother that the abuse does not make him weak, it makes him stronger. Finally, for the first time in his life, he can hear his mother says that she is proud of him.

The researcher used Erikson’s theory to show the development of Dave’s personality from childhood until adulthood with the influence from social environment. The researcher applied Erikson’s eight stages of psychosocial development with their appropriate basic strengths and psychosocial crises. In this part, the researcher only discussed the first six stages in which at the moment before abuse, during abuse and after Dave is rescued by the police from his abusive mother. The stages are (1) Basic Trust versus Basic Mistrust; (2) Autonomy versus Shame and Doubt; (3) Initiative versus Guilt; (4) Industry versus Inferiority; (5) Identity versus Identity Confusion; (6) Intimacy versus
Isolation. These following stages are the result of Dave’s personality development based on psychosocial theory:

1. The First Novel: *A Child Called “It”*

   The first novel is based on Dave’s life when he is 4 years until he is 12 years old. He has been through the first four stages.

   a. Trusting Others

   The first stage of Erikson’s theory is basic trust versus basic mistrust. The domain of this stage is infancy period from birth to 18 months. Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) states that children develop a sense of trust when caregiver provides reliability, care and affection. A lack of those things will lead to mistrust. In the first novel, Dave does not tell his life when he is a baby. As stated in the novel:

   In the years before I was abused, my family was the “Brady Bunch” of the 1960s. My two brothers and I were blessed with the perfect parents. Our every whim was fulfilled with love and care. My mother, Catherine Roerva was a woman of average size and appearance. I never could remember the color of her hair or eyes, but Mom was a woman who glowed with love for her children. Her greatest asset was her determination (*A Child Called “It”*, p.15)

   Erikson believes that this first stage is the important phase for the social development of a baby in order to face the reality in the future.

   From the quotation in the novel, the researcher concludes that Dave can develop basic trust from his mother when he is a baby. Dave’s mother is a great woman who always takes care of her children. She gives affection to her children. When Dave is a baby, he can develop a sense of trust in himself and other people around him.
Dave also has a trust feeling to his father. Dave’s early years provide an appropriate environment for the achievement of this stage. He feels that his father is a savior because whenever Dave’s father at home, he feels safe. His happy memories of loving parents and the feelings of trust and safety that are achieved by him fit appropriately with what Erikson's theory stated. Mooney (2000), supports Erikson’s theory by saying that basic sense of trust is necessary for children to move into the next stage and develop autonomy.

b. Autonomous Person

The second stage of Erikson’s theory is autonomy versus shame and doubt. This stage happens in the ages of 18 months to 3. The developmental task of this stage is to acquire a sense of autonomy without suffering extremes of shame and doubt. After children develop a sense of trust to their caregiver, they begin to find that they have their own wish so they show their autonomy. According to Mooney (2000), children who successfully adapt during this stage of development will acquire a strong sense of self. The autonomy of Dave is showed in the quotation:

I remember the tortoise best because Mom let me pick a name for it. I felt proud because my brothers had been chosen to name the other pets and it was my turn. I named the reptile after my favorite cartoon character (A Child Called “It”, p. 16)

After children develop a sense of trust to their caregiver, they begin to find that they have their own wish. Children will show their autonomy by deciding to do something or not willfully

As a child, Dave is very happy when his mother gives him a chance to have some pets like cats, dogs and aquariums filled with exotic fish and a gopher
tortoise. Dave is very proud of himself when finally he gets his turn to give a name for his tortoise. He develops his autonomy by getting turn to give name his tortoise. According to Erikson in Money (2000), toddlers need to experience the independence of being able to make some choices for themselves. Dave successfully develops his autonomy on making decisions to give a name for his pets.

c. Initiative Person

The third stage of Erikson’s theory that addresses the early childhood years is initiative versus guilt. This stage happens in the play age period at the age of 3 to 5. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), preschool-age children are developing locomotion, language skills, curiosity, imagination, responsibility, and the ability to set goals.

In this stage, children need to begin asserting control and power over the environment. Children who are successful at this stage feel capable, responsible, and they are able to lead others. Those who fail to acquire these skills are left with a sense of guilt, self-doubt, and lack of initiative.

In the first novel when Dave is four years old, he is described as a responsible child. He has many pets in his house like cats, dogs, exotic fish in the aquarium and a gropher tortoise (A Child Called “It”, p.20). Dave’s brothers always have a chance to give names for their pets. Dave also wants to give the name to his pet for the first time. Dave is very happy when finally his mother
gives him a chance to name his tortoise for the first time because he has an initiative to take care of his pet.

The other proof that shows Dave is successful in this stage is when his family decorates the Christmas tree. Every year, Dave’s brothers always have opportunity to place the angel which is the most beautiful decoration of the Christmas tree. Because of Dave’s parents never give him a chance to place the angel, Dave has initiative to do the same thing like his brothers. He wants to place the angel at the top of the tree. He feels very happy when his parents allow him to place the angel at the top of the tree. It can be seen in the statement: “Each year one of us was honored by being allowed to place the angel at the top of the tree, while Father held us up in his strong arms” (A Child Called “It”, p. 22). From the analysis above, the researcher concludes that Dave is successful in this stage. He has initiative to do something.

d. Inferior Person

The fourth stage of Erikson’s theory is industry versus inferiority. This stage happens in school age at the ages of 5 to 12. Children in this stage need to cope with new social and academic demands. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), success in this stage will leads to a sense of competence, while failure results in feelings of inferiority.

This stage is the age when the abuse is begun. According to Child Welfare Information Gateway (2013), there are three terms of the impact of child abuse: physical, psychological or emotional and behavioral consequences. Dave gets the
physical and psychological consequences as the effects of abuse. Dave has problems in school, both in academic and social because of physical and emotional abuse from his mother. Because of physical abuse, he has bad appearance. As stated in the novel:

My long sleeve shirt has more holes than Swiss cheese. It’s the same shirt I’ve worn for about two years. Mother has me wear it every day as her way to humiliate me. My pants are just as bad and my shoes have holes in the toes. I can wiggle my big toe out of one of them (A Child Called “It”, p. 9)

Based on the quotation, it can be seen that Dave feels not confident because of his appearance. He wants to have relationship with his friends but he is not confident enough. It makes him feel that school is not a good place to develop his abilities. As the result, he cannot focus to the subject and then he gets the bad result in academic because Dave cannot believe in his skill.

The physical abuses that he got also influence his physical health condition. Since the abuse is begun, he gets the physical injuries like smashing, punching, kicking, bleeding nose and bruises. When Dave is abused by his mother, his mother stabbing his stomach, burning his arms by using the kitchen stove, giving him no food so that he is lack of nutrition. Torturing Dave by using chemical substances and submerging him in cold water are other physical abuses that he experienced. All the tortures that Dave get from his mother give physical damages to him. Those tortures make him has a very bad posture because of the “prisoner of war” sitting position. Dave is always ordered by his mother to sit in a “prisoner of war” position. As stated in the novel: “One Sunday during the last month of summer, Mother came into the master bedroom where I had been
ordered to sit on my hands in my P.O.W. position” (A Child Called “It”, p. 123).

At the moment when Dave is rescued by the police, he does not have good skin on his arm and fingers because of chemical substances that are given by his mothers. Those chemical substances are usually used to clean the floor.

On the other hand, the psychological consequences are the effect of emotional abuse. According to Wilson (1996), emotional abuse is one of many kinds of abuse. Emotional abuse is the behavior that is harsh, critical and overly demanding toward someone. The impacts of emotional abuse are fear, low self-esteem, depression, and relationship difficulties. The abuse also affects Dave’s cognitive and social skill. The emotional abuses experienced by Dave are harsh statements and demanding attitude from his mother. Dave’s mother has abused Dave emotionally through her harsh statement. As stated in the novel: “Get one thing straight, you little son of a bitch! There is nothing you can do to impress me! Do you understand me?” (Child Called “It”, p. 140). The harsh statements from Dave’s mother make his self-esteem decreases. Those emotional abuses make Dave become a person who always feels fearful.

In this stage, normal children will become industrious, feeling confident and proud of them. However, harsh reprimands restrict a child’s ability to form an industrious attitude. The harsh statements he gets from his mother makes Dave feel incompetent in the school. As the result, he cannot develop his cognitive skill well. In the end of the semester, Dave is told by the teacher that he has to stay in the first grade. Instead of giving the reinforcement for Dave, his mother tells him that he puts his family on shame and he will be severely punished. According to
Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), children begin to form a picture of themselves as a competent or incompetent in this stage. The harsh statement from his mother makes Dave feel inferior and incompetent.

Through social interactions, children begin to develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments and abilities. According to Erikson as cited in Feist (2006), children who are encouraged and commended by parents and teachers will develop a feeling of competence and belief in their skills. Those who receive little or no encouragement from parents, teachers or peers will doubt their abilities to be successful.

At the beginning of Dave’s fifth grade year, Dave’s wins the election of naming the school newspaper. Dave’s homeroom teacher, Mr. Ziegler, tells him how proud he is and then he gives him a letter to his mother. Dave is really happy so that he almost cries and then he runs to his house faster than usual. Instead of praising Dave, his mother tears the letter into pieces. However, Mr. Ziegler as Dave’s teacher gives encouragement to Dave and believes in his skill. As stated in the novel:

“Well, Mr. Ziegler says I should be so proud of you for naming the school newspaper. He also claims that you are one of the top pupils in his class. Well, aren’t you special?” (A Child Called “It”, p. 139).

On the other hand, Dave’s mother gives harsh statement to him and does not appreciate his achievement. It makes Dave feel disappointment so that his self-esteem decreases. Although Dave really wants to make his mother proud of him by giving the achievement from the school, his mother still does not appreciate it. He is still considered as an “It” by his mother. It is stated in the novel that his mother does
not appreciate his achievement by saying: “You are a nobody! An It! You are nonexistent! You are a bastard child! I hate you and I wish you were dead! (A Child Called “It”, p. 140).

Those emotional and physical abuses have bad impacts on Dave’s personality development, in which it creates a sense of inferiority in his academic and lack of confidence in his social relationship. From the analysis above, the researcher concluded that Dave unsuccessfully handles the crisis in this stage. Dave feels inferior and incompetent of their skill because of the emotional and physical abuse that he gets from his mother.

Dave cannot pass the fourth stage positively because he does not get encouragement from his society: his parents and teachers. The environment around him does not help him to develop his strength in a sense of industry. However, Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) is optimistic in suggesting that people can successfully handle the crisis of any given stage even though they are not completely successful in the previous stages. Dave can achieve the fifth stage positively if there are influences from his society.

2. The Second Novel: The Lost Boy

The second novel is based on Dave’s life in the ages of 12 to 18. He has been through the fifth stage.

a. Shaping Identity

The fifth stage of Erikson’s theory is identity versus identity confusion. This stage happens in adolescence period between the ages of 12 and 18. Erikson
as cited in Feist (2006) states that this period that happens from puberty to young adulthood is one of the most crucial developmental stages because in the end of this period, a person must gain a firm sense of ego identity. Teens will develop a sense of self and personal identity. Success leads to an ability to stay true to themselves, while failure leads to role confusion and a weak sense of self (p. 254). Erikson as cited in Ferrara (2002) states that a self-identity is formed based on past experiences and environmental influences on the individuals between the ages of puberty to young adulthood.

Dave has been rescued from his mother when he is 12 years old. After he is rescued by the police, he lives with his foster parents. He has to move from one foster home to another. In his adolescence, Dave starts to look for his identity. Since he is a child, he lacks of family’s love, friends and confession from the society around him. His focus is only about being accepted by others. Dave would do anything in order to be accepted by others. His feeling of ego is showed in this quotation:

I was fully aware that what I was doing was wrong. I also knew that some of the bigger boys were using me, but I didn’t care. After years of isolation, I was finally accepted within a group (The Lost Boy p. 82)
At first I felt ashamed because I had betrayed her trust and kindness. But, on the other hand I simply didn’t care what “Old Maid” Aunt Mary thought of me. My only concern was total acceptance by the older foster children (The Lost Boy, p. 83).

In his first foster home, Dave shows his ego. He really wants to have friends particularly with other children in the foster home. It can be seen from the quotation above that Dave feels identity confusion. Dave is being selfish because
of his hunger of family’s love. He would do everything to get the acceptance from others although he has to do some “illegally” acts like stealing food.

However, living as a foster child is not easy for Dave. From the perspective of society at that time, foster child is considered as bad children because they do not have a good behavior. Therefore, building the relationship with friends is not easy particularly for foster child. Dave wants to be liked and accepted by his friends. It is stated in the novel: “I so badly wanted to be liked, to be accepted by my class, my school-by everyone” (The Lost Boy, p. 36). The needs of being accepted by his friends force him to do some improper behaviors.

In the school, he meets a new friend named John. John says that if Dave wants to join his group, he has to obey his order. Dave is asked to help John to burn the school. Dave feels afraid of John’s order, he wants to join his group but he does not want to burn the school. As stated in the novel:

Nobody ever burns down a school, I assured myself. But what if he’s serious? What should I do? I couldn’t tell Mrs. Catanze and especially not the teachers. But no matter what, I would never turn John in. (The Lost Boy, p. 176)

Based on the quotation above, Dave feels identity confusion. He knows that burning the school is totally wrong. He does not want to obey John’s order but on the other hand he does not have choice. Therefore, he decides to do John’s command to help him to burn the school because he wants to be accepted in the group. Unfortunately, his teachers know about Dave’s and his friends’ bad behavior. Then, Dave is investigated by the police and they bring him to the jail for teenagers named Juvenile Hall. In this stage, Dave gets the crisis of identity.
Dave regrets committing a crime. He feels that everyone will not believe in himself anymore. However, the only one person who still believes in Dave is Lilian, his foster mother. Lilian visits Dave in the Juvenile Hall and then she gives him some advices. She asks Dave to be himself. It is stated in the novel: Lilian smiled, "David, just be yourself. That’s all you have to do. Don’t ever try to be someone you’re not (The Lost Boy, p. 205). Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) states that young people must experience some doubts and confusion about who they are, before they can evolve a stable identity. Lilian gives encouragement to Dave to change to be better. The encouragement from his foster mother encourages Dave to change his identity to be a good person. As stated in the novel:

As Ms. Catanze held my hands, I wanted to explain how sorry I was for all the troubles I had caused her and her family. I peered into her gentle eyes, knowing that I was the cause of his sleepless night and hours of frustrations (The Lost Boy, p. 206). Then I reached out to Lilian hands. “I know I’ve been bad and that I deserved to be punished for what I did by I promise-cross my heart and hope to die- I’ll be good. Real good. I promise… Mom. (The Lost Boy, p. 208).

..., I wanted to prove myself even more. By the end of that week, I had achieved the highest status that the wing held, gold (The Lost Boy, p. 208)

After three months in the Juvenile Hall, Dave turns into someone who has a good behavior. Because of his foster mother’s encouragement, he can be a better person. Dave’s characteristics that are independent and mature can be found in the second novel.

Erikson as cited in Feist (2006) is optimistic in suggesting that people could successfully handle the crisis of any given stage even though they were not completely successful in previous stages. The previous stage describes that Dave
is a child who feels inferiority. Although Dave is not completely successful in previous stage, he can successfully handle the crisis in this stage.

3. The Third Novel: A Man Named Dave

The third novel is based on Dave’s adulthood life after he is 18 years old. Dave has been through the sixth stage.

a. Intimate Person

The sixth stage of Erikson’s theory is intimacy versus isolation. This stage happens in young adulthood at the ages of 19 to 30. Young adults should develop mature genitality, experience the conflict between intimacy and isolation and acquire the basic strength of love. Success leads to strong relationship, while failure results in loneliness and isolation. Successful resolution of this stage results in the ability to form lasting, meaningful relationships with other people.

In this stage, Dave experiences the conflict between intimacy and isolation. Dave married a woman named Patsy. He divorces with Patsy after eight years married. Then, Dave lives alone in a small house near Russian River. He feels lonely in his small house. Finally after some years, he is successful with his love relationship. He meets a woman named Marsha who works as an assistant editor for his books. He finds his true love in the arms of Marsha. As stated in the novel: Closing my eyes, I shook off my fear of intimacy, and I stripped away my last protective layer. “When I’m with you, Marsha…I feel clean. You ease my shame.” (A Man Named Dave, p. 298). He gives everything to his wife, Marsha.
Successful resolution of this stage results in the ability to form lasting. In the end of the third book, he lives happily with his wife, Marsha, and his son, Stephen.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of two parts. The first part is the conclusions, drawing based on the analysis. The second part is the suggestions. In this part, the suggestions are intended for the further study on *A Child Called “It”, The Lost Boy, A Man Named Dave* and for implementation of Prose subject.

A. Conclusions

There are two points drawn from the analysis. First, the researcher draws the conclusions about the description of Dave Pelzer’s characteristics, as the main character in the novels. In answering the first problem, the researcher uses Murphy’s theory and Erikson’s psychosocial theory to analyze the characteristics of Dave. The researcher finds out that Dave is a dynamic character. It is described through the changing of Dave’s characteristics. At first, Dave is a loving child. However, because of the abuse he receives, he becomes a timid and submissive child. He also has a low of self-esteem. Even though he is abused and receives some negative impacts, he is still a loving child. He loves his father and his brothers. These characteristics change through his life experience. In the second novel, Dave is still a timid and submissive person. However, his characteristics develop positively as an independent and curious person. At the end of the trilogy, it is found that he is no longer a timid and submissive child. He has became a
loving and independent man, and has a high self-esteem. Yet, Dave’s positive characteristic of being a loving person remains constant.

The second problem is Dave’s personality development viewed by Erikson’s psychosocial theory. In these novels, Dave can only pass the first six stages out of eight personality development stages. Throughout these novels, it is found that Dave successfully achieves the first to third stages and the fifth to sixth stages because he gets support from his society. Therefore, in the fourth stage, he cannot pass it well because his society does not support his positive personality development.

The result of Dave’s first stage personality development is a trusting person. Dave passes the first stage with the sense of trust in himself. In the second stage, Dave becomes an autonomous person. He develops autonomy in this stage. Dave also can pass the third stage successfully. He becomes an initiate person. He develops a sense of initiative in choosing something. Meanwhile in the fourth stage, he becomes an inferior person. It is because Dave’s parents and teachers do not support his positive personality development. Erikson optimistically suggests that people can successfully handle the crisis of any given stage even though they are not completely successful in the previous stages. Thus, Dave can achieve the fifth stage positively. At first, Dave is a person who has lack of affection. He feels identity confusion because he always wants to be loved by his society. Therefore, he joins his friends to burn the school in order to be accepted among people. Because of the support from his foster mother, he can develop his identity as an independent man. Dave is successful pass the sixth stage. He can develop his
intimacy with his society. He has a strong and meaningful relationship with his wife, Marsha and his son, Stephen. Dave’s personality development is influenced by the society. There are some factors influencing Dave’s personality development. They are the society, his foster parents and his wife.

Wilson states that not all the victim of abuse can be an abusive parent to his children. The influences of Dave’s social environment such as his foster parents, and his wife make him different from other victims of abuse. He can overcome his problems and build his self-esteem. All his terrible abuse experience makes him become a loving, curious and independent man who has high self-esteem.

Based on the result of the analysis, the readers will learn some lessons. Dave gives inspirational story for people who read his novels. Dave’s intention of telling his abuse story through trilogy of novels is to give motivation to abused children to never give up in every situation. These novels are worth to be read because the readers can learn about the struggle to survive and the sincerity from Dave’s story.

This study helps teacher to understand about their student’s psychological aspects. The teachers have to concern about their student’s psychological aspects because it is important to know about psychological aspect of their students in the class. The teachers can learn about children’s personality development and all problems they face. The teachers need prevention action if there are students who experience child abuse because a victim of abuse needs special treatments. The case of abuse also has to be reported to the police.
Parents also can learn everything through Dave’s story. The parents can get understanding of children’s personality development that childhood is a essential period in building someone’s personality. It also teaches the parents that abuse is different from discipline.

B. Suggestions

The researcher divides this section into two parts. The first part is suggestion for future researchers. The second is suggestion for using literature as a source to teach Prose subject.

1. Suggestion for Future Researchers

*A Child Called “It”, The Lost Boy and A Man Named Dave* are interesting novels. The novels are true story written by Dave Pelzer as a victim of child abuse. There are some aspects that can be analyzed by future researcher. Although Dave Pelzer is a main character in the novels but the other characters are also can be considered to be analyzed. The future researcher can analyze Dave’s mother motivation of abusing him. The future researcher also can analyze this topic by using psychological approach.

Another choice of topic that the future researchers can explore is the analysis of the parental influences on the specific area such as mother and son relationship. The socio-cultural historical approach can be applied in analyzing this topic.
2. Suggestion for Teaching Prose by using Dave Pelzer’s Trilogy: *A Child Called ‘It’, The Lost Boy and A Man Named Dave*.

A literary work can be a source of knowledge for lecturers to implement their activities in educating their students. The researcher recommends the novels to be taken as a possible teaching material in the class. These novels offer potential benefits in teaching English that are the language mastery and vocabulary mastery.

Relating to teaching learning activities, these novels can be sources for lecturers to teach Prose subject. Prose is one of compulsory subjects that have to be taken by students of English Language Education Study Program in the third semester. These novels can increase students’ interest and improve their ability in reading literary works, in particular English language novels. By reading these novels, the students are able to strengthen their comprehension in reading and increase their vocabulary mastery.
REFERENCES


PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI
Dave Pelzer was born on December 29, 1960 in Daly City, California. He was given the name David James Pelzer at his birth. His father is Stephen Joseph Pelzer and his mother is Catherine Roerva Pelzer. Dave Pelzer is the second-born among five siblings in the family. He is an author of the trilogy novels *A Child Called “It”*, *The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*.

From the age about four to twelve, Dave was subject to extreme abuse by his mother. He was consistently abused by his alcoholic mother. The abuses are including beatings, starvation and torture. His father did not anything to prevent the abuse. When other children in that age could be free, playing with their friends and enjoying their childhood, Dave was living in a terrible life with his abusive mother.

Dave Pelzer was removed from the family home in March 1973 after the school authorities reported his condition to the police. He was placed in some foster cares. He lived with several foster parents. He had been in three different
foster homes within six months. He went to different schools and hardly had friends. After Dave reached his eighteen in 1979, he joined the United States Air Force. After struggling for many years to be a pilot, Dave was selected to do the unique task. He is responsible for mid-air refueling of the SR-71 Blackbird and F-117 Stealth Fighter in the Persian Gulf War.

Dave also worked in the Juvenile Hall and other programs involving “youth at risk” throughout California while serving in the Air Force. In 1990, he was awarded the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award, which made him California Volunteer of the Year, the first of many awards. Dave got personal commendations from former President Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Bill Clinton for his hard work saving the children who have troubled background.

In 1993, he was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA) and the following year was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Persons of the world (TOYP) for his work in promoting awareness and prevention of child abuse. Dave was also honored to be a torchbearer, carrying the coveted flame during the Centennial Olympic Games.


He travels frequently throughout the United States speaking to groups of all kinds about resilience and overcoming obstacles. He has a reputation as an inspiring speaker. Dave had retired from Air Force aircrew member and lives happily with his lovely wife, Marsha and his beloved son, Stephen.

[http://www.novelguide.com/a-child-called-it/biography](http://www.novelguide.com/a-child-called-it/biography)
APPENDIX II

THE SUMMARY OF DAVE PELZER’S TRILOGY, A CHILD CALLED ‘IT’, THE LOST BOY, AND A MAN NAMED DAVE

Dave Pelzer’s trilogy, A Child Called ‘It’, The Lost Boy and A Man Named Dave tell about Dave’s life journey as an abused child. The first novel entitled A Child Called ‘It’ clearly described Dave’s story of being abused by his own mother when he was a child. It tells about his struggles to stay alive in a home where he was treated inhumanly. He had to learn how to cope with his mother’s games in order to survive because his mother no longer considered him as a son, but a slave; and no longer a boy, but an "It." An old army cot in the basement became his bed. While his other siblings were playing, he had to do some chores or just sit and wait until his mother called him to do other chores. Dave also had not been allowed to eat. His luxury foods were spoiled scraps that even the dogs refused to eat. The hunger he felt forced him to steal the other students’ lunch. Besides his smelly body, being considered as a thief made him even more difficult to make friends. Although he lived in the nightmare, his dreams about someone loving him kept him alive.

The second novel began from the moment when Dave’s school nurse had noticed Dave’s condition and then she decided to tell the headmaster of the school. At the age of twelve, Dave had skin problems on his arms and fingers, lacked of nutrition, had so many bruises, scrapes and burns in all over his body.
The authorities in the school were concerned about Dave’s condition. They reported it to the police. Dave was taken to the custody of the Juvenile Department. Dave was free from his nightmare after long struggles. Then, he was placed in some foster cares and lived with several foster parents.

Even though some people had rescued Dave from his abusive alcoholic mother, his real suffering had just begun. Moving from one foster house to another more than five times within a year was so hard for Dave. He had to adapt to a new environment. In his adolescence, he had to struggle in looking for his identity. He suffered from shame and rejection from those who felt that all foster kids were troublesome and unworthy of being loved just because they were not part of a "real" family. He wanted to be loved and accepted by others around him. Thus, Dave would do anything to be accepted by others, including committing crime. One day, Dave was forced to burn the school by his friends. He went to jail because of his action. At the age of fifteen, Dave had earned his own living. Dave was busy finding another job or working in his part-time jobs while other teenagers are hanging around, showing off their fancy clothes and telling about their holiday. However, Dave made it and could be an independent person. The journey of the lost boy who seeks for the love of a family in this novel is full of tears, laughter, devastation and hope.

At the age of eighteen in the third novel, Dave succeeded to make his dream come true. He joined the Air Force and became an in-flight boom operator – a midair-refuel jets – for the SR-71 Blackbird, one of the United States most important jets and one of his favorite airplanes. Dave’s love story was also
described in this novel. He got married with a woman named Patsy. He had a son named Stephen. After eight years of marriage, they divorced. Then, Dave met Marsha. She was an assistant editor who helped Dave in publishing his first novel. They loved each other and got married.

Dave wrote some books concerning child abuse that gave many inspirations to readers. As an adult, Dave succeeded in helping children that came from troubled background through the presentation he gave. He shared his effort in overcoming the abuse from his mother. The story tells us how he handled his emotions like hate, anger, pity, despair, jealously, and sorrows positively. Dave managed to survive and made his dream come true. Dave Pelzer invites readers on his journey to discover how he turns shame into pride and rejection into acceptance. Dave also shows us how the spirits of mind and soul, love and forgiveness have helped him to conquer all the bad feelings as the result of the abuse.