

Abstract

Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End* consists of four different life stories of each character. As the stories are told, their identities are shaped. These life stories illustrate the way people conceptualize and define themselves through what they say, how they say it, and to whom they say it. Identity is seen as a dynamic process in its construction, so this research focuses on the dynamics in the process of identity formation. The purpose of this study is to uncover the dynamics in the process of identity formation as told in personal narratives. To answer this problem, the narrative analysis method will be used. This research also uses Lacan's psychoanalytic theory to represent the identity of the two characters in the symbolic, imaginary, and the Real stages. The dynamics in personal identity construction are related to life experiences, existential problems, and various dilemmas. These different forms of dynamics challenge the stability of identity. Meanwhile, a sense of security and continuity in the life story is required to form a stable identity, so a response to deal with these dynamics is necessary. These responses vary from one individual to another, showing the uniqueness of each person. Dynamics can also arise from the clash between personal and social identities. The process of identity formation is caught in the dynamic between conformity to the group and the desire to follow personal desires, hopes and wishes. Dilemmas and unrest due to this clash must also be responded to for the sake of life story continuity and identity stability. The response to the various dynamics in identity formation is an attempt to maintain the continuity of the life story and demonstrate strong control over identity formation.

Keywords: identity construction, life story, dynamics, psychoanalysis