



THE QUANDARY OF IDENTITY IN LISA KO'S THE LEAVERS (2017)

Bryan Tirannov¹, Desvalini Anwar²

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Universitas Negeri Padang

email: desvalinianwar@fbs.unp.ac.id

Abstract

"The Leavers" is a novel written by Lisa Ko, published in 2017, which tells the story of Deming Guo, an eleven-year-old boy who is adopted by a couple in New York after his mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, disappears. The novel explores themes of identity, family, and belonging, as Deming struggles to come to terms with his mother's disappearance and his new identity as Daniel Wilkinson. The novel has been widely praised for its portrayal of the experiences of immigrants and the children of immigrants in the United States. It deals with themes of identity, discrimination, fear of deportation, and the pursuit of the American Dream. The novel provides a nuanced look at the realities of immigration and the struggles that immigrants face in pursuit of the American Dream. It's a powerful and thought-provoking novel that deals with important and timely issues.

Key words: Immigrant, identity crisis

A. INTRODUCTION

Living in America as a minority and immigrant is not challenging because of the racial and ethnic diversity that makes up the country. This multiethnicity itself causes various kinds of friction, one of which are discrimination and harassment. Therefore America is still trying to overcome this problem to achieve justice and equality for everyone. Cases of racism against black people and Asian hate for example bullying and hate speech are still happening. This can happen because today, America still prefers one race over another such as Asian, African-American (Negroid), Indian and Latino. The extent to which the white American people receive privilege has created jealousy as well as a desire to be like white people (white Americans/Caucasian). As a result, many of them want to be like white people, in hopes of gaining privileges such as education, careers, health and social equality. The desire to "be like white people" reveals the fact that American minorities still face problems related to their identity. The white race was highly valued because they have the best and most special characteristics. They gain

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on March 2023

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



access to many sectors of life more easily such as education and the job market. That indicates that equality is something America is still trying to achieve.

Since it is still far from being equal, America is still trying and fixing to solve this problem. Because it impacts the minorities and also the immigrant to live in uncomfortable condition. There are still many minorities who question their own identity. Besides that, Identity it is the important things for someone to have. Without identity it makes someone imitate other easily, get confused and then losing their own identity. sometimes they do not know where they come from because their questioning their identity, which according to Jenkins (1996, 4) Identity “refers to the ways in which individuals and collectivities are distinguished in their social relations with other individuals and collectivities” it indicates that identity is very important for someone have and without identity someone will be rejected by the society because questioning their identity. Same case with this immigrant, On the one hand they still want to maintain their identity but on the other hand they have to be forced to follow the culture or change their identity to avoid bullying and harassment. In other words, American minorities are still in conflict with their identity which, according to Deng (1995) “are the ways individuals and groups define themselves and are defined by others on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, language, and culture”. If someone tries to change their identity or appearance like another race, ethnicity, or culture, it means they have lost their identity or are experiencing an identity crisis or cannot distinguish their own identity.

Identity confusion or crisis identity is when a person is questioning their sense of self or place in the world. Identity confusion itself happens because of physical, emotional, and social changes. Afterwards each individual may experience a confusion of identity, many factors can contribute to this, including a lack of parental support, a lack of positive environment in which to grow, and the fact that adolescence is a very vulnerable period for making decision and growing. According to Erickson (1982) the social environment such as friendships may affect the identity of the individual. A positive environment and friendship will form a positive identity as well. Meanwhile, a negative environment and friendship will form a negative identity for the individual. Identity can be defined as positive or negative depending on what is believed, Because basically adolescence is a “period of self-discovery” and everyone will experience identity confusion in the search for identity. If the period is passed well then an individual will be more "mature" both in thinking, making decisions, behaving well, and having confidence in himself and his choices.

Moreover, identity confusion is also felt by immigrant in America especially from Asia. Asian immigrants as one of the population that makes up America are also struggling to cope with the issue of discrimination imposed on them as the result of being non white American. While Asian Americans are a small minority population, they are one of the fastest-growing racial/ethnic groups in the country. According to Barnes & Bennett (2002), The Asian American population in the United States has been steadily increasing over the past few decades, with more than 10 million Asian Americans currently residing in the U.S.

The discrimination against Asians in America is still happening even now. According to Kennedy (2020) “As the population of Asia grows, so does a crime against Americans of Asian descent. In the US, a Southeast Asian family of four was stabbed outside a Walmart in Texas, including a two-year-old toddler”. This shows that Asian Americans must be released from the shackles of racism and other crimes. Another case in the COVID-19 crisis, racism against Asian is also the worst that has ever happened to Asians. White people discriminated and blamed Asians as the cause of the Corona outbreak. Based on Vachuska, (2020) COVID-19 has allowed the spread of racism and created national insecurity, fear of foreigners, and general xenophobia, which may be linked to the increase in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic.

Many Asians get unpleasant treatment from Americans such as abusive treatment, verbally, and even physically. This kind of discrimination has already happened long before that just because they are not originally from America or immigrants. Although cases of discrimination and racism are rampant in America every year, the number of people immigrating to the United States is increasing. "The U.S. immigrant population is growing significantly faster than the native-born population" (Kandel, 2011). Not without reason, one of the factors supporting the increase in immigration is because one of them (immigrants) is looking for work, America is still one of the destinations for people looking for work or realizing their dreams. "The United States has long been considered a hospitable destination for immigrants, defined as "people who move to a country other than their country of birth and live in the new country for the long term," regardless of whether they have or are seeking citizenship in that country. (Dietz, 2010, p. 104) Some people think that when they go to America they will find better opportunities to make decisions and find new jobs to earn money. They want to get the best education and career, and the last reason is they want to get better living conditions because maybe in the previous country their condition was very worrying and they decided to go far away to escape the dangers and dire conditions.

Despite the accepted they are receive in the community because of the adjustment they make, they still receive discrimination and then experience quandary of identity in their daily lives, there are also those who keep fighting to make efforts to solve the conflicts or quandary of identity they experience. for example an Indonesia rapper Rich Brian, who struggle from discrimination and accepted in their society because have a talent that suited with American culture which is Rapper. Another example is the famous musician Michael Jackson who tried to be white by doing plastic surgeries to look like a white American. Not just only the example from the daily live but we can also take an example from the character in this novel, Deming Ghuo as a main character in this novel faced the confusion identity by making peace with himself. He determines his life goals slowly and until finally he is at the stage that of becoming a new personality. One other way that the main character does to deal with the confusion of his identity is to find his passion in life. which has a profound effect on the survival of the character itself.

Although commonly viewed as a “model minority” (Lee, 1996) Asian Americans are not immune to the discrimination that are also faced by other minority groups (Young & Takeuchi, 1998). Based on Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001:7) “everyday racism is a common, ordinary experience for the coloured in America. Ordinariness itself means that racism is difficult to cure or address , in the end creates awareness of being the same individual to be accepted in their society so they try to be like the White such as acting like white, peaking like white, changing physical appearance like the white. Racism towards Asian Americans has relied on several ideologies and stereotypes; economic, competitor organized criminal, “illegal alien”, unwelcomed immigrant, military enemy (“yellow peril”) (Kia, 2007: 132). It is means that Because of that discrimination, intimidation, and harassment the cause of identity quandary itself, minority and immigrant questioning their identity because of that racist.

One of the reasons for choosing the identity quandary as the topic to be discussed in this thesis is that this topic is related to modern society that is happening today. This will prove that identity also gives strength to humans to become stronger and dominant in their environment, Because of the discrimination itself cause the confusion of identity for Asian. And also the story is very interesting to analyse since it to show the psychological problem and issue of identity quandary of the separated immigrant. This is very related to immigrant especially children that have separated with their parent. Even more separation is the common issue of the immigrant in all over the world but always ignored.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The design research is qualitative research with content analysis. Qualitative research is considered the most suitable for researching content or problems in a literary work because it requires a deep meaning. According to Sugiyono, defining a qualitative research method is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism, used to examine the conditions of a natural object, (as opposed to an experiment) where the researcher is the key instrument, the sampling of data sources is done purposively and snowball, the collection technique uses triangulation (combined), data analysis is inductive / qualitative, and the results of qualitative research emphasize meaning rather than generalization.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

In this chapter, the researcher explains and discuss about the use of mimicry, on the main character in Lisa KO’s novel titled *The Leavers* (2017). And also the discussion is covers two parts, the first is why the main character undergo his identity quandary in the novel *The Leavers* (2017) and the next the researcher will discuss and prove more about how the main character cope the quandary of identity in the novel. And not forget to include the relevant element and theories such us hybridity, diaspora, In-between, and unhomeliness that experienced by the main character and also contained in the novel.

2. Discussion

4.1 Hide behind a mask

In this part the researcher will focused on the main character experience many problem

in many sector such us mimicry. This novel tells about the main character whose name Deming 6 – years – old- boy trying to fixing and solving who he really is. The chapter is running in two storyline, the first perception is the boy six years old name Deming and next perception is from Daniel Wilkinson as a (adult Deming) adoption by a white couple named Peter and Kay Wilkinson. All activities that do by the main character is the process of self copying and merges to be accepted in the society of white people America like doing a hobbies like white people, talking like white people, interaction with environment, and that's why he doing mimicry. The process of copying and confusion has describe from Deming since Deming move to the new apartment.

The effect of alienation and feeling strange causes the identity confusion. Deming experienced a form of discrimination which caused him question his identity.

There are some of quotations that reflected the forms of confusion in the novel the leavers which experienced by the main character.

There were no other Fuzhounese families on their block, and sometimes people looked at them like their language had come out of the drain. Deming answered in English. "I'm not going. Leave me. (p.7)

From the quotation above we can see that Deming feeling uncomfortable to live in the new place, which he felt that it was not where he lived and he felt foreign. On the other side he want to defend his identity and speak in chines but on the other side the neighbor looked at them with a strange look that hinted that they looked foreign. And we can see from the quotation "Deming answered in English. "I'm not going. Leave me." finally Deming feeling uncomfortable with that situation and 'mimic' the language that foreign to him because of he want to accept on the society which requires him to speak English. in this situation describe a tense tone that felt by the main character and her mother, they both felling strange in their own place.

From this situation, Deming increasingly adapting to the western culture that makes him into a new personality. Two decades later after Polly (his mother) decided to disappear, eventually Daniel Wilkinson trying to change their personality to be the all American boy by doing some hobbies and do what westers do.

with his Gore-Tex coat, wool hat, and puffy gloves stashed in a back room with his guitar- a butterscotch scrat he'd bought off of craigslist- his jeans and black T-shirt didn't seem too blatantly suburban, yet the other guys' feet were clad in stark white sneakers or dark leather boots, and the old fear bucket up that he'd exposed, called out, exiled, you're fake.

According to the data above, it tells about how Daniel try to copying to be accepting by white people in America. Because white people usually accept people like them whether it's rappers, playing bands, hip hop, and skaters. Its show to us that America still unfair to minority and because of that discrimination and harassment and also violence make minority limitation to do what they want to do and in the end they must to do copying to be accepted in their society or community. the utterance :

"Controversy's brewing at the college," Kay said. "Excuse the coffee pun." Daniel drained his cup. "At Carlough?"

"The minority students have been protesting." Peter placed a hard emphasis on minority. "They want the administration to establish an Ethnic Studies department."

"So what's wrong with that?"

"Well, it's not that we don't agree with them," Kay said. "I mean, we do value diversity."

"But the level of vitriol," Peter said. "Frankly, it's not helping their cause. I've had students walk out of my lectures. It's simply disruptive."

It's the white students, too, of course," Kay added. "All this focus on trigger warnings, political correctness. I'm afraid we're breeding a generation of coddled children. I'd like to think that we've raised you to not have that sort of entitlement, Daniel.

"Of course, Mom." (p.23)

From the quotation we can see that Daniel parents which Peter & Kay support Daniel to be a mature and think like white people because they don't want Daniel to be like another minority and 'Uneducated' to be doing demonstration like another minority and also its indicates that Peter & Kay want to change Daniel into all American boy which is Peter & Kay was changed his name from Deming (chines name) into Daniel to western name its show that his parent want to change everything such us his speaking, dressing, habit, circle, hobbies into a white people. Plus he was abandon by his mother and everything that he think can protect him and that the strong reason why Deming especially teenagers confuse of his identity and questioning who they really are.

“We’re glad you’re here, Daniel,” she would say in English, then perform shapeless approximations of Mandarin words. She had learned some Chinese phrases, taken Mandarin classes and bought a Chinese–English dictionary, but her tones were so off-kilter that Deming couldn’t understand what she was saying. “I don’t know who you are,” he’d respond in Fuzhounese. When he spoke Chinese, Peter’s leg would bounce and Kay’s lips would press even thinner, as if they were being sucked into her body, her mouth consuming itself. “English, Peter would warn, concerned that Deming wouldn’t be fluent enough for school, as if the English he spoke was tainted.” (p.49)

From this situation we can assume that his new parent don’t want Deming speak chines anymore ang trying to leaving the old habit like speaking in chines, and also Peter and kay want Deming fluent to talk and speak in English because its made life of Deming more Easier than before. Because as we know if someone try to enter school, collage, or even go to the groceries we need to speak in English if you want to survive. So that’s why Deming change his name, his language, appearance, his hobbies, friend, and even his habit to merges with white people, and this internal conflict make him become more mature and because of betrayal of his mother and abandon by someone close to him make Deming using his defensive instincts and one way is do mimicry or copying According to Bhabha, Mimicry is the process by which the colonized subject is produced as ‘almost the same but not quite’ (bhabha, 1994).

“Fuck you!” Shawn yelled back. “Fuck! You!” The locker room’s collective response was laughter, so much worse than anger, and Shawn slunk away. Then Deming felt the shove, a blow between his shoulder blades. He tipped forward. It was Cody. “What are you looking at? Chinese retard.” On the side of his face was a flying saucer–shaped mole. He pushed Deming again, but this time Deming charged Cody and knocked him backwards. Cody stumbled, making a sound like oofaa. He was less graceful than even Travis Bhopa; he was big but lacked balance. This struck Deming as both comic and predictable. There was a weight on him, a jab in his side. One elbow, then another. Deming cried out and the weight rolled off. Cody collected himself. Deming stood up. “What the hell?” The weight was Shawn Wecker, his face snarled. Deming walked away. “Retard,” Cody repeated. “Chinese retard.” It sounded like a bawl, fleshy and raw, an animal turned inside out. In gym they played kickball, a sport Deming had never (p.60-61)

From the quotation the cause of why Daniel lost his identity one of it is because of the effect of bullying and discrimination. Daniel try to avoid the bullying but because he and his friend (Roland) are minorities they can’t do anything. As a Chinese kid, people are easy to see him, categories him, and bully him. As we can see from the quotation “what are you looking at? Chinese retard” from this we can see how easy to people judge by his appearance and he also feel

unconfident with that situation that make him forced to mimic and copying what the white people do.

Another quotation show that the main character do copying to avoid the racism it can be seen in his actions towards Cody who had been bullying him. It can be seen from this quotation :

Sucks, man. Fuck a debt.” Cody packed another bowl. The car was shocked with smoke. “Hot-boxing in the front of my jeep,” he sang to the tune of “ party in the U.S.A.” his voice hasn’t half bald. (p.251)

According to the quotation, Deming want to do anything to be accepted by anywhere. Cody as a bully just want to accepted a people who like him and do anything for him. Deming he is a good boy with good personality must change his self to avoid the bullying and discrimination toward himself.

The example of mimicry and confusion of identity looks so clear from the act of the main character, with whom his friend, and what he going to do to defend himself from bullying and accepted by environment. Because of discrimination also the strongest reason why the main characters do mimicry, besides that the internal conflict within him and his mother make him down and giving him a strongest punch who he really is.

4.2 Obligate to leave the Homeland

This terms of diaspora is a process of identity formation for a group of people - individuals and communities who are outside their homeland as a form of aspiration and recognition in the midst of the political conditions of the country of origin and the recipient country Missbach (2011). James Clifford underscores diaspora as a journey of long distances and separation which is similar to the condition of someone who is alienated (1994: 304). Diaspora happened in this novel because of many reasons, first its because of economic, the feeling of shame, and finding a better place than previous country. The main character forced to leave his hometown from childhood.

There are some quotation that reflected diaspora that experienced by the main character in the Novel Lisa Ko:

Yi ba made excuses. “ why not wait until your debt is paid so you can have more time for him,” he said. “wait until you have enough saved to get your own place. He shouldn’t be living with all those women. And you need to get a better-paying job, with better hours. (p.179)

From the quotation below we can see how care the grandfather of Deming which “YI BA”, the Tone of this quotation is hopeless, he don’t want his grandchild feeling stress to move from China to the place that Polly work which is America. YI BA argue that Deming will feeling shock about a new culture, but on the other side Polly want a better life for her and also for Deming. So we can conclude that the move from the old place to the new place is looking for

opportunities for a better job, for a better school, and carrier to Deming in the future.

In new York city, I changed. For one thing, I was no longer peilan. One of the other girls in the Bangkok apartment had suggested Polly, an English name that sounded a little like peilan. So it was polly, not peilan, who was doing thirteen hours shifts in a garment factory. The same work peilan had done in China except for eight times more money, and it was polly who paid to much rent for a sleeping bag on the floor, the spot given to the roommate with the least seniority. (p138-139)

The quotation above show that how struggle Polly to find a better place to get to America. “In New York city, I changed” show that Polly has passed a various hurdle to get in America. Beside that she is pregnant indirectly massage to the readers that Deming and his Mom are the strong person, they can do anything to change their life, to get a better life no matter of that, Its indicates to us that the life before they go to the America is difficult and trouble and also The approach to the main character actually we can see from this part, we can see how Deming survive with his mother to New York city. It is not easy to life and assimilate which they are illegal immigrant and of course it give them pressure because as we know racism especially to Asian people still happened in America. The practice of diaspora shown in this novel is not only that, diaspora it is not just about the leaving and the coming but it is about your feeling after you come to the new place or new land.

“oh, that’s right, Peilan! From primary school. Now I remember you!

“how are you Jing?

“John. My name is John now” he was only two years older than me but already had wrinkles around his mouth.

“ how is America?”

“oh its paradise. Its another world”

“how much debt do you have?” YI BA asked.

“very little, now” (p.136-137)

The quotation shows that the implied meaning of being worked by the illegal immigrant, Polly in narration say “its paradise” but in fact that it is not. She is trap by own expectation that America is a country that accepted many diversity but the fact Polly must work hard but with very small salary. And also receive that the life in the village is very happy more than in the city this is the symbol of unhappy because Polly put a high expectation in America, and when the characters say its paradise, this is the way of character make peace and sincere about his condition.

4.3 Not belonging

Not belonging or unhomey can be formulated as a feeling that captures a sense of alienation that the perpetrator feels towards his place of residence and the

world he lives in, unhomely also as a symbol of discomfort and various difficulties since being away from his hometown. unhomely it can be a symbol of someone will feeling like alone, deserted, confused toward the situation. someone will feel like missing home, Home in other words is feeling loss and not an appropriate place to grow and life.

Adopt, there was a similar term in Chines, yet Deming hadn't enough of his time with peter and kay to be anything but vaguely temporary, like the stay with Yi Gong had been vaguely temporary. even the name Daniel Wilkinson seemed like an outfit he would put on for unspecified period of time, until he returned to his real name and home planet. where the real home was, however, was no longer certain.

“its weird,” he said
“do you miss your mom?”
“yeah” (p.77)

From this narration Ko is the writer show to us how the main character missing his “Home”. home is the right place to grow up, to learning about the world, to share love with family and that's why Deming feeling loneliness when family isn't there. home in this narration it's not just about the place but it's about a person. the tone from this quotation is sorrow as we can see Deming miss all about his past like his name before, his parent, his grandfather, and also his village. home is the symbol of homesick that feeling by the main character of course physically and mentally. the utterance “yeah” it is has a various meaning, he is feeling loneliness and disappointed it the same time, one side he mad to her mom that never give the reason why she leave him but on the other side he really miss her mom at the symbol of the “home” because by Deming Polly is everything and the place where he call “home”.

In this novel Daniel obsessed to searching who is he really are, where he come from, why her mother leave him, and why her family ignore him until one day Daniel or Deming Guo decided to go to his village to find a truth about himself and also find his mother. “Home is a metaphor from comfort zone, Daniel thinks that if he go to his village to see his grandfather and also he want to find her mother he will find a true “Home”.

He'd never been to Fuzhou before but it was a place he already knew. his brain struggling to stay alert, he repeated to himself in English: I'm in China! I'm in China! (p.268)

From the quotation below we can see Deming finally go to his village to find a new journey and happiness to himself. the tone of the quote is happy because Daniel look excited and finally he can feel what a truly home. the internal conflict makes him become a strong person. he proved to other people he is a

brave person, he can flight to another country with no fear with the aim to finding his mom.

They stood in front the bodega. “your going to go to a good school the new job is going to pay good money. we’ll live in a quite town”

her voice was a trumpet, her words sharp triangels. Deming remembered the years without her, the silent house on 3 alley with Yi Gong, and saw a street so quiet he could only hear himself blink. “I’m not going”

“I’m your mother, you have to go with me”

“Yi Gong was with you then, I was working so I could save money to have you here. its different now”

he removed his hand from hers. “different how?”

“you’ll love florida. you’ll have a big house and your own room”

“ I don’t want my room, I want Michael there” (p.7)

The setting refers to the tense confuse. her mother want to move to a new place, automatically he must lost everything start from his family, his comfort zone, house, and everything. he does not know what he must to do, the utterance “I don’t want my room, I want Michael there” show the biggest conflict in his life. for Deming home is not just a place but its also about family, in this situation Deming think that family is more important more than anything. family is the right place to share about everything. so because of that even Deming now in New York city he really miss his village, his grandfather, his partner and friend Vivian because they are a home for Deming.

The character start to questioning himself about where he came from. he starts to find the answer until he finds an answer where he come from. he is feeling lonely and nobody care about that. he tries to fight his sadness and confusion by searching a true “Home”. that’s the main character solve the problem that consume him.

The characters feel like there is nobody need and want him. it means that nobody wants to be its home and It can be seen from the following quotation.

Peter and Kay Wilkinson squatted on the steps. “Deming,” Kay said. “We’re going to take care of you. It’s going to be okay.” She put her arms around him. Her shirt smelled like laundry and soap. His mother had been gone for half a year. And now Leon and Vivian were gone, too. Nobody wanted him. (p.47)

The quotation above means that the character loss everything, the one thing that he had is only family but the family has been disappeared. ‘leave’ is the only word that can describe how the main character feeling. he’s feeling sickness, feeling lonely and also feeling abandon by everything that he has. the utterance

'nobody wanted him' show that the main characters is hopeless and think nobody love him. the character represent how loneliness he is, and also he becomes don't trust people anymore because everything that he assume that is a 'Home' is leaving him without reason.

It's not only the main character that feeling not being 'Home' but the mother of the main character which is Polly Guo has feeling that also. like mother like son, son always imitate what their parents do. the cause of Deming always feeling sick about searching a real 'Home', it's because her mother that always bring him into a new world or new place that Deming can not recognize it. Polly always adventure wherever she goes but she never find what a meaning of 'Home' it is.

The man on stage answered the question, talking about an initiative at the collage where he worked, but Daniel saw his mother look around to auditorium, trying to find him, as the rest of her face struggled to remain still. he suppressed a laugh.

she found him after the panel ended, pushing past people waiting to talk to her.

"Deming! you scared the shit out of me! (p248)

From the quotation we can see how the mother feeling glad because she finally can meet with his son and also his actually we can call a 'Home'. the tone of this quotation is happy and pleased because after she past so many obstacle to see his son and finally she's so glad because she can go back to her home, and so does Deming, he feeling grateful because her mother is the person who is always searching by Deming its finally standing in front of him and both of them now have a home. the utterance 'Deming! you scared the shit out of me' this moment we can conclude that Polly is feeling surprise and feeling happy because his son is growing into a good boy with new appearance, new characteristics, and also new personality because Deming grow up with struggle against racism, discrimination toward him. because of that Polly feeling surprise because Deming able to survive and become a teenagers.

4.4. Complexities of dual cultural identity

The In-Between in this novel describe how the main character standing in confusion and ambiguity that makes him hard to choose what his true identity. In between itself is a state or position that is in the middle between two other things.

"She pulled hi away from the puddle. "of course"

"what about Michael and Vivian?"

"they'll join us later"

"when?"

"the job stars soon, in a week or two"

"a week? I have school."

"since when do you love school so much?" (p.7)

From the quotation below, the tone of the quote is confused. because the Main character feeling nobody understand him, the main character think that everything that he have easily go to leave him. and because of that the main character stuck on the point that he must choose the best for him and also because of that the strongest reasons why the main character stand in the between because he's confused he must choose to join with her mother or he stay on the comfort zone that brings him into a normal life. besides that from the utterance "a week? I have school" indicates that the main character is don't want join with her mom because he's scared to face a new journey, and find a new personality again because of he must move to the new place again and again. in fact he is scared to left by the people he loves include her Mother and because of that the main character make an internal conflict with himself to choose her mother or her new family.

The in between is also reflected when the main character decided to choose the best for him. because the effect of abandon by someone he love so make the main character confused and don't trust people anymore.

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of you. It's going to be okay." She put her
arms around him. Her shirt smelled like
laundry and soap. His mother had been gone
for half a year. And now Leon and Vivian
were gone, too. Nobody wanted him. (p.47)

From the quotation shows the character lost everything that he have especially the someone he loves. everything leaves him and nobody care about that, it's makes him disappointed and relate to the tone of this quotation is disappointed because we can see from the utterance 'nobody wanted him' its indicates that he lives in the middle that he must choose where he must go, where he must live, where he must talk to, and the reason why he still live until now. he also think that he lives among the ambiguity and also the weakness that makes him survive in the new world alone because leaving by the people that he trust. and the impact of that also makes the personality of the main character is do not trust to anyone anymore and he thinks everyone will betray him because of traumatize felt by the character.

Somehow, the character in this novel it's just a human that sometimes feeling confused that must deal with the problem. and add more the character itself it's a teenager that always searching his identity that makes him confused to deal with himself. sometime grow up its not just about the age buat It's about the mature that someone face the problem. in this novel we can see from children to adolescent the development of the main character is hard and full of betrayal and abandon. even when Deming grow up and change his name to Daniel, he faced the same case that he confused to choose what he want to :

Hi Daniel,

I'm looking for a Daniel Wilkinson who used to be named Deming Guo. is this you ?

HI!!! It's Michael. you and your mom used to live with me and my mom and my uncle Leon in Bronx. my mother got married a few years ago and I live with her and my stepfather in Brooklyn. I'm a sophomore at Columbia.

I know we haven't talked in years but if this a right Daniel, can you write me or

call me at 646-795-3460? it's important. it's about mother.

if this is the wrong Daniel Wilkinson, can you let me know too so I don't bother you again?

hope to hear from you soon!

Michael Chen

"Fuck", he said. "Motherficker". as if Michael and Leon and Vivian could come back ten years later, as if all of a sudden he mattered to them. (p.22)

From the quotation above show how the main character confuse and the tone of the quotation its show confuse because as we can see the character feeling strange and puzzled with the fact that after the character forget and genuine with the condition but Michael come back to his life and inform again about her mother that makes him remember again with the pain that feeling by the main character. He has lost everything. He does not have any plans, he has disappointed his friends and family. He just like others who had lied and disappointed him. the utterance "Fuck", he said. "Motherficker". as if Michael and Leon and Vivian could come back ten years later, as if all of a sudden he mattered to them.' show how the main character confused, angry, and disappointed because at the same time he feeling happy after a year passed he know the information about her mother but at the same time he confused because he has a new life and enjoy to live it. another behavior show the main character confused because of standing in between faced what the best for him :

One week later, tucked into a double bed sheathed with red flannel, Deming Guo awoke with the crumbs of dialect on his tongue, smudges and smears of dissolving syllable, nouns and verbs washed out to sea. one language had outsee another; New York City had proved him with an arsenal of new words. he'd bled English vowels and watched his mother's face all.

Again and again we can see from quotation above from his child he must face the reality that put him into a true confusion in his life. he forced to learn a new thing because abandon by her Mother and his new Family (Leon, Michael, and Vivian) that consider it as his own family. the setting refers to the tense condition. he does not know what he has to do. the utterance 'Deming Guo awoke with the crumbs of dialect on his tongue' shows the biggest conflict in his life. he

do not know what he must to do and what he must to choose, he totally lost and failed in this moment because he was confused. he is a child and decide to choose what he must to do.

The character tend to isolate himself. because the confusion that he experience toward the condition and another quotation shows that characters tend to solve his problem by himself can be seen from this following quotation :

There were so many more emails and documents, bundles of legal papers and dense forms, but Deming couldn't bear to read them, and Peter and Kay would be home any minute. He stuffed the papers back into the folder, then wedge the folder in the file cabinet and pushed the drawer shut. (p.80)

From the quotation the setting refers to confuse and worry that show by the character because the character tend to hide the problem and solve the problem by himself. he does not want anyone know about his confusion that makes anyone confuse to. even more the character is the independent person that prove from the child he faced the problem that makes him into an ambiguity and confusion. that makes Deming adult (Daniel) usually solve the problem by himself. he feels save to solving his problem by his own because he cannot believe anyone anymore. the effect of leaving by the people that he loves make a consequence for himself. prove that by the utterance 'he stuffed the papers back into the folder, then wedge the folder in the file cabinet and pushed the drawer shut' shows he scare and confuse if he talk to his foster parent and makes them mad and because of that he never open to them and keep it the problem by himself.

In summary, the character show that how many problem that he must solve from his child until his mature or adult. The character show to us how many struggle that he must passed until he mature. the process from he's child until he adult it is not easy, start from discrimination, harassment, racism, until violence. Because of all that deal, the character forced to do a mimicry, feeling unhomely, standing In-Between, and leaving the comfort zone that he want to. add more by the character do not trust anymore to every people that makes him standing in ambiguity and always find his identity. during searching his identity makes the character know what the meaning of true life and identity is a crucial issue in this novel that bring the reader know the conflict and how the main character solve the conflict

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After conducting the analysis in previous this chapter conclude the analysis of the research, The next chapter is conclusion and discussion. from the

conclusion is obtained from the analysis, and the suggestion are used to give a new information or *memperkaya*

Novel *The Leavers* (2017) By Lisa KO, show the issue of the child abandon by the people that he loved. starts from her Mother, his family, Friend, and even his place that he think it's a comfort zone. in this analysis, its revealed through text- based and context-based interpretation by focuses on fictional devices such us character, plot, and setting. the story reveal the main character named Deming Guo or Daniel Wilkinson as a Chines-American that confusion to his identity and forced doing mimicry to survive in America, confusion of identity can be seen through his Behavior and action.

Mimicry is used by the character for avoid the discrimination toward himself. The novel also deals with themes of identity, as Deming struggles to understand and reconcile his dual heritage and the different parts of himself. This is a story of a young boy who is torn between two worlds, and the novel is about how he navigates the complexities of this situation.

Overall, "*The Leavers*" is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that deals with important and timely issues. It's a story of love, loss, and the search for identity, it's a novel that will resonate with many readers and will make them think about the complexities of the immigrant experience.

In my analysis of Lisa Ko's "*The Leavers*", I highlighted that the novel deals with themes of identity, family, and belonging as it tells the story of Deming Guo, an eleven-year-old boy who is adopted by a couple in New York after his mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, disappears. The novel explores the complexities of the immigrant experience and the struggles that immigrants face in the United States, including discrimination and the fear of deportation.

One suggestion for further analysis of the novel would be to examine the ways in which the novel portrays the relationship between Deming and his mother, Polly. The novel explores the deep bond between them, and how their separation and the subsequent adoption process affects Deming's sense of self and his relationship with his family and community.

Another suggestion would be to analyze the themes of race and identity in the novel. The novel explores the ways in which Deming, as an Asian American adoptee, navigates and understands his racial identity, and how it intersects with his experiences as an immigrant and as an adoptee.

Finally, it could be interesting to examine the novel's portrayal of the American Dream and the immigrant experience in the United States. The novel provides a nuanced look at the realities of immigration and the struggles that immigrants face in pursuit of the American Dream. In summary, "*The Leavers*" is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that deals with important and timely issues. It's a story of love, loss, and the search for identity, it's a novel that will resonate with many readers and will make them think about the complexities of the immigrant experience.

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