

IDENTITY VS ROLE CONFUSION IN THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE: A PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

Muhammad Iqbal¹, Ghulam Yaseen², Tanveer Baig^{*3}

¹Department of English, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan;

²Lecturer, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Jhang, Pakistan;

³Assistant Professor, Department of English, BZU, Sub-Campus, Lodhran, Pakistan

iqbalsaqi.1987@gmail.com; mhr.yaseendab@gmail.com; *3tanveerbaig@bzu.edu.pk

Corresponding Author: *

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ABSTRACT

The present study focuses on analyzing the factors of Role Confusion in the society that weakens the personal identity of the protagonist, Adunni, in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020). The study also identifies how the protagonist develops a sense of self and virtue of fidelity by using Erickson's theory of psychosocial development as a theoretical framework. The researcher uses qualitative analysis as a research methodology and the content analysis as a research method. The study focuses on the perspective of Role Confusion and investigates how to minimize the negative identity roles and develops the positive identity roles in individual's life. The study finds out the protagonist's ambition to get an education. The study also explores how the protagonist becomes free from role confusion to develop a sense of self and virtue of fidelity.

Key words: Role Confusion, Identity, Self, psychosocial analysis

INTRODUCTION

The study aims to analyze adolescence identity formation and identity confusion in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2010) by Dare. The researcher endeavours to analyse the novel by using Erickson's psychosocial development theory (1950). The focus is on fifth stage that is Identity vs Role Confusion because it occurs in the age of adolescence same as protagonist's age. The story revolves around a young Nigerian girl named Adunni, who dreams of achieving her goals, getting education and speaking for herself. She faces numerous sufferings as she comes from a poor rural village where girls are uneducated and often married at a very young age. Her mother supports her dreams but for her father, she is only a commodity for financial gains. Soon after her mother's death, her papa sells her to an old man as a third wife. The theme of the novel revolves around the protagonist Adunni who wants to spread a louding voice to all the girls of her village. She marries to a cab driver named Morufu who has two wives before and four female children. In this regard, she feels unable to protect her from cruel social authorities. Her husband

does not allow her to educate herself as he thinks education is not meant for girls. The girls are only meant to be in home, do chores and get marry at young age. She is forced to marry with an old man to pay the house rents. She remembers her goals to get an education, become a teacher and grow up like a wealthy woman having a car and a beautiful house. Unfortunately, she finds herself in the black hands of social expectations and traditional norms.

Labake is Morufu's first wife who does not want to share her husband with other women, but she is forced to do so because she is unable to have a male child. She holds a higher position of authority and seniority and exercises control over the other wives. Adunni feels safe and comfortable when she is with Morufu's second wife, Khadija, who is charming and young. She is portrayed as more submissive and accepting of her role within the household. Morufu makes a golden rule to be the king of the house and rule over his wives. Nobody is allowed to respond to his speech. He always warns Adunni not the interrupt with useless questions and listens silently. Adunni tolerates everything even though she has a lot of

questions and arguments for inequalities. Khadija shares Adunni's dreams and aspirations. They support and motivate each other for the betterment of life. Khadija provides Adunni a sense of friendship and companionship as Adunni shares everything with Khadija. Adunni does not want to produce a male child for Morufu so Khadija offers her herbal medicines to avoid getting pregnant. On the other hand, Khadija asks Adunni to accompany her on the way to midwife for childbirth. She never refuses and moves with her towards Kere village.

Bamidele is the reason for Khadija's pregnancy, she tells Adunni to call for him when she starts having labour pains while traveling to Kere village. Money demands force her to marry Morufu even though she falls in love with Bamidele before being forced into an arranged marriage. At some point, she goes back to him in an attempt to conceive a boy and to escape her husband's absurd threats to send them back to her father's home. Khadija unfortunately dies during her delivery along the Kere River's bank, and she never makes it back to Ikati. Here, Bimedele makes a promise to her that he will deliver a unique soap—a family legend—that will enable them to save both Khadija and their carrying child. Bemidele disappeared forever. In order to escape the injustice that may befall her should anyone in the village hold Adunni accountable for Khadija's death, Adunni flees back to her father's house and begs for assistance. Adunni chooses to move out of his home because her father disapproves of her. She leaves the Agan village and meets Iya, a friend of her late mother. Iya sends Adunni to her brother, the agent Mr. Kola, who resides in the Idanra village.

Adunni avails the opportunity to get the scholarship and realize that this chance enables her to become a Louding voice. The bond between Tia and Adunni has already grown so she decides to take step for Adunni to write an essay up to 1000 words. Mrs. Tia initially tells Adunni that she plans to not have children even though she has good education, a beautiful wealthy home and married a devoted partner. Unfortunately, Mrs. Tia has unfriendly relationship with her mother-in-law because of the patriarchal stress of producing a male child. To cope with difficult situation with her mother-in-law, she assists Adunni to realize her goals at proper age. On the other hand, Adunni realizes Tia to think against the decided plans and she begins attempting to conceive with her husband due to Adunni's powerful

connection. Tia's mother-in-law is the cause of stress due to inability to conceive a baby. Her mother-in-law forces Tia to go to prophet for preventing bad spirits from her. Tia faces the cruel realities of life at the Miracle Centre because the cruel belief system admits that not having a baby is just woman's fault.

Adunni decides to write an essay for scholarship. Tia advises Adunni to write her essay honestly and ask her to put your soul. She motivates her to do best and write freely. During the process of scholarship schemes, Adunni experiences a lot of mishap by Big Daddy, the one who wants to rape but fails to approach her due to the unexpected entry of Big Madam. It also turns out that Big Daddy and Caroline, one of Big Madam's best friends, are having an adulterous affair. After this, Big Madam gets Big Daddy out of her house and issues strict instructions to Kofi and Abu to not let him back in. Furthermore, Adunni is interested to solve the mystery of Rebecca's disappearance, the one who is pregnant from Big Daddy by promising to wed her and provide her a place to live in the same place as Big Madam. Later, he poisons her but is saved by Big Madam. She instructs Rebecca to never return. Adunni spends more than six months in Big Madam's house where she never pays due to Mr. Lola's black business. After few months, Adunni is awarded the scholarship and flew away towards her dreams.

Psychosocial is an interaction of social factors with individual's development psychologically and physically. The relationship between psychological, biological and social scenarios is established by psychosocial development. Human development needs all those three scenarios for the betterment of the going cycle and all those aspects are given equal weight. Freud's psychosexual contribution comes up with the foundational mark for Erickson's psychosocial theory (1950). Psychosexual and psychosocial considers that man confronts with a conflict, but the main difference is that psychosexual concept focuses on sexual issues while Erickson's psychosocial place more emphasis on conflicts involving one's own self. The concept of youth development cannot be reduced to only identify formation but also incorporates several critical dynamics. In short, the whole explanation revolves around to deal with the identity confusion by facing the self, look inward and explore the inner self as protagonist of the novel reveals in her whole journey to develop her personal identity.

Objectives of the Study

- To identify Role Confusion that weakens the protagonist’s personal identity in Dare’s *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (1950).
- To analyze the protagonist’s sense of self and virtue of fidelity in *The Girl with the Louding Voice*.

Significance of the Study

The study aims to build an understanding of self -esteem and self – actualization. It contributes to minimize the negative identity roles and to signify positive identity roles in an individual’s life. The researcher focuses on highlighting the contemporary perspective of Identity vs Role Confusion from psychosocial perspective. It helps in the improvement of psychoanalytical field of literature through Erickson’s stages of psychosocial development to analyze Dare’s *The Girl with the Louding Voice*.

Theoretical Framework

The present research is the contribution to the psychoanalytical literature in which Erickson’s theory of psychosocial development (1950) is used for the theoretical framework. The current study focuses on the fifth stage of psychosocial development i.e. Identity vs Role Confusion. This stage occurs during the age of adolescence in which adolescent explores an independence and develops a sense of self. The study is also focused on how social relationships affect psychological development and growth of an individual.

Erik Erikson’s Stages of Psychological Development by Dr. Saul McLeod (2023) are given below:

Table 1.1. Erik Erikson’s Stages of Psychological Development

Stage s	Psychological Crises	Basic Virtue	Ages
1	Trust vs. Mistrust	Hope	0-1 1/2
2	Autonomy vs. Shame	Will	1 1/2- 3
3	Initiative vs. Guilt	Purpose	3-5
4	Industry vs. Inferiority	Competency	5-12
5	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Fidelity	12-18
6	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Love	18-40
7	Generativity vs. Stagnation	Care	40-65
8	Ego Integrity vs. Despair	Wisdom	65+

Literature Review

Everything in this world is in the dynamic state and so there are many challenges and hurdles at every phase of life. These challenges are not only in the individual life but everyone must face multiple problems even on the national level. The current paper particularly focuses on the elements of the development of self-identity and identity crises by the portrayal of the main character Adunni in Dare’s *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020). The main purpose of the study is to investigate adolescence Identity vs Role Confusion that leads to a weak sense of personal identity which restrains the psychological development of an adolescent. This study is concerned with the dimensions of society narratives such as poverty, early marriage, domestic violence, slavery, gender and class difference, oppression and marginalization that are responsible to restrict Adunni from actualizing her goals.

Aditya (2011) analyzed *Cradle of Secrets* by Lisa Mondelo by using qualitative research method. The novel was analyzed by analytical description and Erickson’s phase of Man was used for the investigation. By examining discussions, feelings, actions and characteristics, the author of the novel contrasted the contradiction between the main character Tammie and Serena. In this study, the psychological issues faced by the two major protagonists thought the course of their life was discussed. The findings of the study allowed the readers to observe the relationships between the two major characters and how good and bad they handled challenges in their daily lives. To conclude, Serena and Tammie depict Erickson’s psychological growth. Although each character faced challenges in a unique way, as they all go through the stages of psychological growth that are identifiable by the way they approach and resolve their issues. Not just their family but the society was also problematic.

Makama’s (2013) work of *Patriarchy and Gender Inequality in Nigeria: The Way Forward* focuses on societal pattern known as patriarchy that was unfair and discriminatory towards women. The society wanted men to always govern women in every field of life related to home, workplace and in education. The patriarchal system of society wanted to dominate regardless of their gender. Furthermore, numerous cultural, political, social and other aspects of life exhibited patriarchy as discussed in Makama’s (2013) work.

Kiviniik and Wells (2013) in their study, Erickson is regarded as a pioneer of psychology in the fields of adult development, psychohistory, lifespan - development and positive psychology. His work is expanded to psychoanalytical practice that heals up children's troubles which is called encompassing psychological theory or epigenetic chart. It consists of eight critical periods. Each of the stage described the human as developing an ego quality that permit an individual to merge the situation with social structures. Kiviniik and Wells (2013) explored Freud's concept of psychosexual development which was first called as bio - psychology explaining the importance of family system and society in person's development. Moreover, temporal concepts of human development expanded from the completion process of adolescence continues to adulthood and entire lifespan by extended Freudian developmental stages. Finally, there was a contribution to contemporary focus on the genesis, reclamation of the problems and development of the psychosocial health.

Flahaux and Haas (2016) state in *African Migration: Trends, patterns, drives* that there were more factors that drive migration which was called as displacement. Other than war, poverty and political upheavals, people moved for many reasons. They state that Africa as a continent of mass migration and displacement caused by violence, poverty and environmental crisis. People's migratory choices were influenced by their individual desires and the places they think can be fulfilled. Moreover, the dynamics of lifestyle depicted by the media with the glimmers of western touch and consumerism can also be a reason why people migrate.

The paper *Performing Identities: A Study of H.M. Naqvi's Home Boy* by Shanthi (2016) examined ethnic conflict, identity politics and cultural conflicts that emerged after the attack of September 11. It was generated to fuel up power discourse which accelerate xenophobia and became a spectacle to mobilize nationalism of US hegemony. The terrorist attacks led to the emergence of colonial discourse namely exclusive American nationalistic rhetoric that purposefully excluded Pakistani Muslim migrants who voluntarily participated in culturally homogeneous cosmopolitan society, as highlighted in H.H. Naqvi's *Homeboy*.

In *Revisiting Erickson's Legacy on Culture, Race and Ethnicity*, different perspectives were discussed for the meaningful analysis of social and

cultural influences on identity development. These perspectives were emphasized on the concepts of privilege, power and oppression. The study set out to look into the ways that culture, race, and ethnicity influence identity. It was suggested that historical trauma acts as an ideological context for oppressed people' identity development. It explained the connection between historical trauma and the risks to self-continuity or temporal identity integration. Erickson's legacy on Culture, Race, and Ethnicity was used to explore social contexts in order to construct a theoretical and empirical work.

In *Psychology Development Portrayed in Jane Austen's Emma*, Abuhassan and Azmi (2019) used Erickson's theory of psychosocial development (1950) as the theoretical framework for the investigation of the bildungsroman phenomenon as represented in Jane Austen's *Emma* (1817). It was claimed that Emma did not need to travel far to mature. She was developed within her social circle. This paper had specifically focused on Emma's psychosocial and social development is a fundamental component of bildungsroman work. It was suggested that Emma could not be interpreted as a bildungsroman not because the protagonist embarked on the quest but rather because Emma didn't experience a feeling of psychosocial and social development. The study suggested that Emma should not be categorized as a bildungsroman since the heroine misrepresented what maturity and social integrity meant.

Onuzo (2020) work *The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Dare's Review - a tale to spark change*, declared about the meaning of Louding Voice. The term was used for a woman who finally expressed her worldview and was supported by a solid western education. Onuzo (2020) revealed that the language was used in Dare's book is known as Pidgin English in Nigeria as she shared Dare's statement. As even highly educated people use Pidgin English, I knew I didn't want to write in it. The unusual English was what I wanted it to use. Since it might be in her native English, I could claim it for Adunni (Dare, 2020). Additionally, in order to combat inequality, the trauma experienced by Nigerian girls pushed into early marriage and domestic servitude must be addressed. By describing the multiple issues of Adunni's life, Onuzo (2020) elaborated that Adunni was ready for the illegal marriage to help her father to pay the rents. Her mother, who always fought for her to have an

education, was deceased. Her husband and Big Daddy raped her. She found herself working for Big Madam in Lagos because of terrible incidents. She was referred as a house-girl but she was a slave. Despite of all difficulties, she was motivated and determined to succeed and thought the best way to do it by getting western education.

In 'The Girl with the Louding Voice' is fast - Paced Unfortunately Predictable, Tew (2020) describes the life span of the native girl belongs to a small community of Nigeria. The thrilling adventurous book followed both inspirational and depressing moments alternatively. The access of didacticism was the serious problem of the book. Instead of making a pun, Adunni's narrative voice was one of the novel's best elements. Tew (2020) revealed that Dare declared about the gender and class difference exist in Nigeria. Throughout the novel, a reader tried to find an answer, Will she be safe? Overall, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020) was a happy tale full of sparks and suspense. Passing through all the possible difficulties, Adunni was accomplished her goal with the kindness and patience.

In Review: *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, Collins (2021) stated that seven Africans out of every 1,000 were trafficked into slavery. According to the reviewer, the story of the novel was set in Nigeria in 2014, a year in which 276 school girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram. The story reminds us with the depiction of Adunni, a 14 year old girl from the remote community. Collins (2021) was impressed and astonished to read the novel though straightforward vocabulary was unexpected for him. He was curious to know about the end when he first started to read the novel. For him, the book was not hilarious enough; it only offered comic relief because of the Adunni's determination and optimism. He expressed that Adunni was a fictional character but the representation of the millions of young girls whose lives were governed by contemporary slavery, poverty and illiteracy.

In Elliot's (2021) work in *ABI Dare's 'The Girl with the Louding Voice' Language Plays a Foremost Role in Storytelling*, a hybrid language was used in the novel for both English speakers and pidgin speakers. The book's language was the greatest achievement made up for the predicable plot and acted as a crucial path into the character of the protagonist. The English language used in the novel is corrupted in contrast to the English used by other

contemporary authors like John Munonye, Ngugi WA Thiongo and Jennifer Makunbi which was grammatically correct but derived from the translation of local language. Moreover, the work talked about Adunni's struggle to get education and have a loud voice. One of the major highlighted ideas was the use of tenderness, empathy and the fundamental goal of education recognized in the novel. People speak differently because they are grown up differently, but the main thing is to understand each other. In this way, Adunni's tale inspired many people to share their tales.

The research study *The Main Character's Struggle against Patriarchal Structures in Abi Dare's The Girl with the Louding Voice* was conducted by Indriati (2020). The focus of this research was to discuss Radical feminism that was concerned with the opposition to rape, domestic abuse and other critical scenarios of society including physical and sexual violence against feminine. Women were always served to be in limited phase and ever used as a tool of oppression and exploitation. The main issues that led to the development of Patriarchy by men in the opposition of women were the focus of radical feminism. Men were supposed to oppress women and exploit their dignity. So that radical feminism considered being a suitable research methodology since it aided to identify several aspects of patriarchal systems in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020).

Indriati (2022) examined the patriarchal structure and practices in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by using Sylvia Walby's theory. The main goal was to understand the main character's problems and struggle with the system created by patriarchy. Theoretically, the research promoted feminist and literary knowledge and practically, it encouraged researchers to respect, comprehend and support women's problems in every circumstance. The evaluated findings were: the novel presented four examples of patriarchal structures i.e. sexuality, culture, family labor and those that govern male aggression... challenges faced by main character including courageous to not give birth to children for her husband, brave enough to expel from the situation she doesn't want, bearable to confront those who commit sexual assault, brave to speak against male violence and committed to achieve her goal.

Ardiasyah (2022) states in *Oppression Experienced by Adunni in Abi Dare's The Girl with the Louding Voice* that oppression often occurs in the

community, and it could result from the lack of money, bad behaviors or other multiple reasons. A novel described the tyranny of the main character Adunni who endures suppression from patriarchal expectations. The study aims to identify the oppression of Adunni that she experienced throughout her journey and to discuss about the struggle she had done to tackle the miseries. The researcher applied Young's oppression and Lerner's feminism theory by using feminist critique approach. Furthermore, Adunni went through all the aspects of oppression like powerlessness, cultural imperialism, marginalization, brutality, cruelty, discrimination and exploitation. She was forced to discontinue her schooling, entered the valley of forced marriage, endured violence and exploitation from the elite class and suffered several injuries. She had high aspiration and never gave up ever. She wanted to get education for the betterment of her future so as she did.

Ashari's work *An Analysis on the Needs of Adunni in The Girl with the Louding Voice* tried to describe about Adunni's persona and determined how Adunni satisfies her needs in Dare's novel *The Girl with the Louding Voice (2020)*. There were two research issues related to Adunni's characterization that how was she portrayed and how she met her demands in the novel. A descriptive qualitative Methodology was used for the investigation and new criticism theory was applied to explain Adunni's characterization. Ashari (2022) employed Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of human needs theory for data access to fulfil Adunni's requirements. The findings of this study indicated that Adunni was characterized as a protagonist who dealt with the variety of issues in life. Due to her personal struggles, she was portrayed as a girl with the notions of brave, compassionate, smart and strong. The examination revealed that Adunni passed through five levels of hierarchy of needs. First, she took care of her physical requirements by her own help and with the closest people. Then, she eluded her domestic life to satisfy the need for protection. Next, she attempted to fulfil her self-esteem on her own and talked to Khadija and Iya when she was upset and scared because she was missing her mother. Finally, she was self-actualized by securing the scholarship and continued her school to stay in the field of education. To be concluded, she fulfilled her needs from the lowest to the highest.

In Nigerian communities, people did not have the right to according to their own will as well

as they are not free to perform their cultural and social activities which raise the issues related to identity and create confusion. Relating the existing study with the current one, it was found that few research have been carried out on Dare's *The Girl with the Louding Voice (2020)* when it came to the point of psychoanalytical literature from the perspective of Erickson's psychosocial development in the age of adolescence specifically, no research has been carried out so far. For the research niche, therefore, this study aimed at identifying Role Confusion that weakens the personal identity and how to develop a sense of self and strengthen the virtue of fidelity from the perspective of Erickson's psychosocial development theory (1950) qualitatively analyzed in Adunni, a protagonist in *The Girl with the Louding Voice (2020)* by Dare.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development suggests that individuals go through the series of stages and each of these stages is characterized by a unique development challenge and crisis. Erikson (1950) identified five stages that happen during adolescence, including Identity vs. Role Confusion. Role Confusion affects the human psyche and human's relation to society. In this regard, the present study deals with analyzing the text of the novel *The Girl with the Louding Voice (2020)*. It identifies the factors of Role Confusion that leads to weak sense of self and personal identity. Moreover, the study analyzes the development of self and the virtue of fidelity from the psychosocial development perspective.

During the age of adolescence, adolescent explores his individuality and develops a sense of self and virtue of fidelity. Adunni is the protagonist of *The Girl with the Louding Voice*. She is intelligent 14-year old girl from rural village of Nigeria. She struggles to understand her place in the world and find a way to develop a sense of self and virtue of fidelity. Adunni faces the challenges of balancing her identity with the standards and expectations of society. She has experienced trauma and abuse all of her life, which hinders her ability to develop a strong sense of self and further restricts her capacity to investigate her own agency.

In Dare's *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, social factors have a significant impact on Adunni's identity and psychosocial growth. Adunni experiences oppression and discrimination due to

lack of education and social class. Oppression plays a significant role in Adunni's life. As a girl, she is subjected to cultural norms that limit her ability to fulfil her dreams to get an education by experiencing young age marriage and crucial stones of the way toward dreams. Papa, her father, is depicted as a complicated character that plays a significant role in shaping Adunni's identity. He is portrayed as a hardworking person as well. He does his best to give food and shelter to his children despite extreme poverty attacks and financial instabilities. But he adheres to traditional gender roles and social expectations which is the main beginning stone of Adunni's dreams. Papa becomes a significant obstacle to her education that hinders Adunni's pursuit of knowledge and individual growth. As papa holds a traditional mind so he prioritizes boys' education over girls' education. He discourages Adunni for education as he says to Adunni "Only stubborn head it will give you. And sharp mouth, because the one you are having is not enough, eh?" (Dare 2020.p.26).

According to him, Adunni's fortune lies in early marriage, becoming a good wife and a mother of boys rather than pursuing education or getting independent in her life. He sees marriage as a means of securing future, tool to have financial stability and way to escape from hardships. This sought reinforces him to prioritize marriage over education as he is deeply influenced by the cultural values and expectations of the Nigerian Society. That is why; papa forced her to an arranged marriage with Morufu to relieve the financial burdens. He says to Morufu "This is your wife now, from today till forever, she is your own. Do her anyhow you want. Use her till she is useless! May she never sleep in her father house again?" (Dare, 2020, p. 35).

Morufu is an old, taxi-driver, and treats Adunni like a servant rather than a wife. He is portrayed as a traditional man who addicts to patriarchal norms and values. Morufu tells his wives that "I am the king in this house. Nobody must talk back to me" (Dare, 2020, p.40). His behavior towards Adunni is often oppressive and authoritative. He restricts her dreams, freedom and expects her to do traditional gender roles. He is not in the favor of education just like Adunni's father. His treatment toward women highlights the broader societal issues, particularly those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Morufu desires a son from Adunni to continue his lineage which he has not satisfied with Khadija because he has only daughters from her. Morufu says "marry the second wife, Khadija, Big mistake! Big mess! Why? Because Khadija is having three girls: Alafia, Kofo and I forgot the name of the last born now. No boy" (Dare, 2020, p.41). His desire for a male child reflects traditional cultural beliefs. This promotes gender -based violence and social expectations placed on women to fulfill the roles of bearing children and carry-on family names. Adunni is opposed to the concept of bearing male child and early marriage as she says "I will work hard and born my own children, and me and my husband, we will send them to a very good school, even if they are all girls-children" (Dare,2020,p.159).

The theme of gender inequality and importance of male dominancy over female is the highlighting point throughout the novel. The novel depicts the patriarchal society of Nigeria and sufferings faced by women like novel's protagonist. Adunni faces significant barriers in getting education because of her gender. In her society, men are prioritized for educational and working opportunities, while girls are only supposed to do traditional gender roles such as marriage and childbearing. Papa tells Adunni about Morufu that "If you manage and give him a boy as first born, he will give me ten thousand 'naira" (Dare, 2020, p.27).

In the novel, the protagonist's trauma portrays the gender-based violence and the tolerance for such violence within the society. Adunni's experiences abuse and humiliation that uncovers the power dynamics and patriarchal authority that exist through the dominant figures. These aspects demonstrate the social expectation of male superiority and systemized discrimination suffered by women in the novel. Enitan says that Adunni that "marry Morufu and born fine, fine boys for him" (Dare, 2020, p.30). It means bearing boys is more important than girls because men are considered more valuable than female. This cruel reality is ideologically fit in women's mind as they are psychologically bounded to accept the bitter reality of the patriarchal society. Moreover, it also paints a vivid picture on the challenges Adunni encounters as she navigates the society that suppresses her voice and sense of self.

Poverty restricts Adunni's growth and self-discovery. Its impact on Adunni's identity highlights the factor of social instability. Social instability

occurs when social injustice is not in place, thus increasing the social problems including the risk of developing a financial instability, lesser social skills, and disturbed family relationships. It effects on psychosocial development of Adunni as the word psychosocial is referred as psychosocial ('; .mind) and social (relationships). This role confusion faced by Adunni is depicted in the character of papa. Papa, a patriarch, faces difficulty in finding a permanent work as unemployment in tightly interlinked with the poverty. Due to her financial problem, Adunni's father arranges her marriage to an older man. This practice of almost every Nigerian family reflects the desperation caused by poverty. As far as poverty restricts Adunni's access to education as she desires to go to school for learning. The lack of education is the main root towards poverty that restrain the psychosocial growth of Adunni. She says "I know papa cannot find that moneys enough if he is searching the whole of the Nigeria because even my school fees moneys of seven thousand, papa didn't have" (Dare, 2020, p.9-10)

The loss of Adunni's mother also impacts on self-worth and perception of Adunni's own voice. Adunni's struggle to find her own voice without her mother's support is silenced by cruel expectations and oppressive forces. In this way, Adunni's mother symbolizes louding voice for Adunni. She represents support, encouragement, determination, pride and empowerment that Adunni needs to find her own voice and know her worthy self and advocate others. While Adunni enters on the journey to find her own voice, she holds her mother's legacy and motivational advice for her. Her teachings become a guiding force that offer Adunni a sense of strength and inspiration to overcome obstacles and make her dim voice shine. With the determined hope to get an education, Adunni says that "I don't want to be having any kind voice...I want a louding voice" (Dare, 2020, p.25).

Adunni's employment under Big Madam's custody highlights the exploitation and unequal power dynamics that exist in households which stark economic disparities. Her profits from Adunni's labor and continuously denies her right reinforces the factor class difference. Adunni is overworked, underpaid and denied basic rights which emphasize the impact of poverty on individuals in marginalized situations. The trauma of girls to force into early marriages and domestic slavery reflects broad societal and psychosocial issues of class and power in Nigeria. Through the actions of Big Madam, there

is a representation of privileged and wealthy corrupted elites who own lower classes to exploit and trap them in the cyclic journey of oppression and dehumanization.

Big Daddy's power and authority in the society make it difficult for Adunni to escape from oppressive situations and seek justice. Adunni expresses her fear by saying "I try to sleep, but when I close my eyes, I see Big Daddy's teeth's, sharp like a blade, bleeding with blood, coming for me"(Dare, 2020, p.136). She is mentally tortured because his status is enough to manipulate and control all the things, including his own wife. Although, she is more powerful and wealthy than Big Daddy, but her gender is not valuable than him. Due to corrupt and exploitative nature of his political and business dealings, he always harasses her and threatens her like commodity as Kofi tells the Adunni "And when I say 'business,' I mean woman business" (Dare, 2020, p.117).

Kayus portrays different perspective of masculinity than other males in the novel. He is not addicted to the concept of man superiority as he is against of dominating and controlling others. He believes in relationships based on respect and justice. His personality reflects the contradiction to the poisonous realities of the Nigerian society as he establishes in helping people to overcome limitations and biases of their society. Through his love, Adunni discovers her own strength and starts to shape her own identity. She enables herself to achieve a strong sense of self and represents the positive impact on personal growth and development.

In the novel, Kofi serves as a cook in Big Madam and Daddy's house. He belongs to Ghana and the money he earns from Big Madam's house is using to finish the construction of his house where he has a daughter around Adunni's age. Kofi guides her about the Ocean Oil Secondary School Scholarship as he feels that it is a best chance for Adunni's freedom and dreams. He says, "There is no here for you, and from what you told me, none in Ikati either. This is all you have." (Dare, 2010, p.145). He is one of those men in the novel who never exploit and abuse Adunni for physical urge as he often advises Adunni to "Be very careful of Big Daddy" (Dare, 2020, o.117) in Big Madam's house. He further explains, Big Daddy is "Shame of a man" (Dare, 2020, p. 117).

To conclude, the factors of Role Confusion are analyzed in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020) through content analysis method. During the

analysis, the characters of the novel are identified who take part to weaken Adunni's personal identity and restrain her psychosocial development. Moreover, those characters are also analyzed who serve best to shape Adunni's identity and develops her sense of self and virtue of fidelity.

Conclusion

The study provides a detailed insight to analyze Identity vs Role Confusion in *The Girl with the Louding Voice* (2020) from Erikson's psychosocial development theory (1950). The protagonist's ambition to get an education becomes a symbol of her louding voice, self-expression and the opportunity to enlighten her own path. It is through education that Adunni encounters societal expectations and standards to redefine her sense of self and virtue of fidelity. She becomes free from role confusion, discovers her unique voice, and gain the power of her personal identity. At the end, she says "Welcome, Adunni, welcome to your new free" (Dare, 2020, p.287).

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