

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the study

*The Golden Son* is a novel by Indian writer, Shilpi Somaya Gowda, who was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. This novel is Gowda's second novel after *Secret Daughter* in 2010. *The Golden Son* was published in 2016. In the novel "*The Golden Son*", Gowda also explains the search for identity of the two main characters named Anil and Leena. Although the title of this novel is *The Golden Son*, which emphasizes on Anil, but almost all the story of this novel also tells about Leena's life. In this novel, the odd chapters are Leena's life story, and the even chapters are Anil's. This is mainly what makes the writer interested in analyzing characters.

Anil Patel is the eldest son of the couple Jayant and Mina Patel. In this novel, Anil is a child who is very proud of his family, especially his father. Until finally his father tells Anil to become a doctor because his father is inspired by a doctor who does cleft surgery to Maya, Anil's cousin. Anil initially wants to refuse, but he sees his father expecting him to be a doctor. He finally obeys the will of his father. Anil gets a chance to have an internship for several years in Dallas, America. However, when his father dies he returns to India and continues his family business in particular to replace his father's position. Replacing his father's position in the family leads him to find his true self. Leena's life is also described in this novel. Leena is a girl from a small family in Pachanagar. Leena has no brother or sister. When Leena is twenty two years old, she has to marry Girish, a man that has been arranged to marry her. Just like Anil, in that kind of

situation Leena proceeds to find her true self. Basically, this *skripsi* is going to analyze the process of identity formation of the two main characters in the novel.

Identity formation is a process of formation of a person's self that involves the attitude, character and mindset of a person who can show who he is. The process can be influenced by the environment, family and others around us. Erikson (1968), a German-American developmental psychologist and psychoanalyst, describes identity as a personal sense about self-persistent and derive over time. Based on the notion of identity, it is seen that identity is very important for human life, because when a person has the right perspective of himself then he would have a clear goal in life and is not easily influenced by others. Talking about identity, it means talking about the process. As Erikson said above, identity is about time and the process of being consistent. Therefore, this *skripsi* will discuss about the formation of identity that occurs on the two main characters since they were small until they grow up. Furthermore, Erikson (1968) said that identity formation is a basic developmental task in adolescence, and it add a person with a sense of equality and continuity across time and place. Starting in adolescence, a gradual change takes place from being a recipient of care to being a provider. The process of identity formation can start from childhood. Today, many young people lose their true identity. It is influenced by their environment and culture. Thus, in the process of identity formation, many are experiencing an identity crisis. An identity crisis is a period in which an individual is at an adolescent stage of development. At that time, adolescents have an attitude to look for his identity. This novel also shows the condition of a family in India. The reason why the writer chose this topic to be analyzed is

because every human must have their own life processes that make everyone understand true identity of their life. In the process of life, there must always be problems and challenges so there is a process in which a person must make the right decisions according to his or her true identity. Therefore, based on this novel, Anil and Leena make some decisions to find their true identity. Decision is the action or process of deciding about what to do or of resolving a question, and also a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration. So that, from the decisions along with the influences of each other and the people around them, make these two people ultimately have the right way of how they look at themselves.

### **1.2 Statement of the problem**

1. What are the factors that form or influence the identity of Anil and Leena?
2. What decisions do Anil and Leena take in forming their identity?
3. What changes do occur in the two major characters' lives after finding their true identity?

### **1.3 Purpose of the research**

1. To find out what factors that form of influence the identity of Anil and Leena
2. To analyze what decisions do Anil and Leena take in forming their identity
3. To analyze what changes occur in the two major characters' lives after finding their identity

### **1.4 Significance of the research**

The writer of this *skripsi* conducts this research to know how Slipi Somaya

Gowda portrays the process of identity formation in the two major characters. In the novel also by analyze the factors that form their identity and the decisions that their take to find out their identity, the writer gives more understanding on identity formation in novel *The Golden Son* by Slipi Somaya Gowda.

### **1.5 Scope and limitations of the research**

In discussing the literature, there are many intrinsic or extrinsic elements that can be discussed such as family, love, character, setting, conflict, etc. However, this paper will only discuss the case of Identity formation of two major characters which are Anil and Leena.

### **1.6 Status of the study**

The writer of this skripsi has checked that there is no an alumni of Faculty of Letters of Christian University of Indonesia who analyzed this topic or this novel. Because of this book was published in 2016, the present writer will be the first researcher who is going to analyze the book of Slipi Somaya Gowda's *The Golden Son* in Faculty of Letters of Christian University of Indonesia.

### **1.7 Organization of the study**

This skripsi consists of four sections. The first chapter is the introduction, consisting of background, statements of the problems, purpose of the study, the importance of the study, the scope and limitations of the study, and organization of the study. The second chapter is a review of related literature that will be used to analyze the novel. The third chapter is an analysis of the novel and the fourth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.