



**KURT COBAIN'S PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT  
PORTRAYED IN CHARLES R. CROSS'S *HEAVIER THAN  
HEAVEN***

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**BY**

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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE**

**FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES**

**UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

**2017**



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**Presented to**  
**Universitas Brawijaya**  
**In partial fulfillment of the requirements**  
**for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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**2017**



## DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

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Muhammad Isham Nugroho



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*

I would like to deliver my greatest gratitude to Allah SWT for, the most gracious and the merciful, for the blessing that enables me to finish my thesis. This thesis will not be completed without the guidance and support from my supervisor, Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A. I am also thankful for Fredy Nugroho Setiawan, S.S., M.Hum., as my examiner who gave suggestions and critics for the betterment of my study.

I would also like to dedicate this thesis for my family, Ibu, Bapak, Hasna and Zidan for all the loves, endless prays, and support. I would also like to deliver my special thanks to Elis who was willing to spend her time and energy to be my discussion partner since the beginning of this thesis writing till the end. Not to mention my friends, Dyan, Meytha, and Tira, who were also willing to discuss other problems I found related to the writing of this thesis. Lastly, I would like to also thank my other friends, whom I cannot name one by one, for giving me any supports during the process.

Malang, 02 Agustus 2017

The writer

## ABSTRACT

Nugroho. Isham. 2017. Kurt Cobain's Psychological Development Portrayed in Charles R. Cross' *Heavier Than Heaven*. Study Program of English Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Si Utami Budi

Keywords: Human Psychological Development, Erik H. Erikson, Kurt Cobain, Biography, Psychological Analysis

Human psychological condition will always changed throughout their lifetime and it can be analyzed from many perspectives, and of the perspective that can be used to analyze is by using Erikson theory of human psychological development. There are two research problem proposed in this research: (1) how Kurt Cobain psychological aspect develops, (2) what outcomes shown in each stage of psychological development theory.

The research design used in this study is qualitative approach design to analyze the data. The writer also uses the psychological approach proposed by Albertine Minderop to acquire the data.

Based on the result of this study, the writer found that Kurt Cobain had five negative outcomes and one positive outcomes from the six stage of the human psychological development by using Boeree's theory of the outcomes of Erikson's human psychological development. Even though there are eight stages of psychological development, the writer found that Kurt only passes six of the eight stages because he commits suicide in the middle of the sixth stage's period.

## ABSTRAK

Nugroho. Isham. 2017. **Perkembangan Psikologi Kurt Cobain dalam biografi Kurt Cobain “Heavier than Heaven” yang ditulis oleh Charles R. Cross.** Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: Sri Utami Budi

Kata Kunci: Perkembangan Psikologi Manusia, Erik H. Erikson, Kurt Cobain, Biografi, Analisis Psikologi

Kondisi psikologi manusia akan selalu berubah sepanjang hidup mereka dan dapat dianalisis dari banyak sudut pandang, salah satunya adalah dengan menggunakan teori perkembangan psikologi manusia milik Erikson. Ada dua rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini yang pertama yaitu (1) bagaimana aspek psikologi Kurt Cobain berkembang, (2) apa hasil yang ditunjukkan Kurt Cobain di setiap tahapan perkembangan psikologi manusia milik Erikson.

Penulis menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif untuk menganalisis data yang didapatkan. Penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan psikologi milik Albertine Minderop untuk mengumpulkan dan menganalisis data.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Kurt Cobain mendapatkan lima hasil negatif dan satu hasil positif dari delapan tahapan teori perkembangan psikologi manusia milik Erikson dengan menggunakan teori Boeree tentang hasil dari perkembangan psikologi manusia. Dari delapan tahapan perkembangan psikologi manusia, penulis hanya menggunakan enam tahapan karena Kurt Cobain memutuskan untuk bunuh diri ketika dia sedang berada di tengah-tengah tahapan keenam.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TITLE PAGE</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>BOARDS OF EXAMINERS' APPROVAL</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>viii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Problem of the Study .....	5
1.3 Objective of the Study .....	5
<b>CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b>	
2.1 Theoretical Frameworks .....	7
2.1.1 Psychoanalysis.....	7
2.1.2 Psychological Approach.....	8
2.1.3 Human Psychological Development by Erik Erikson .....	9
2.1.4 Psychological Virtues, Malignancies and Maladaptions by C. George Boeree.....	15
2.2 Previous Studies .....	16
2.3 Research Method.....	17
2.3.1 Deciding the Object of the Data .....	17
2.3.2 Deciding the Theory and the Approach .....	18
2.3.3 Collecting and Classifying the Data .....	20
2.3.4 Analyzing the Data .....	20
2.3.5 Drawing Conclusion .....	21
<b>CHAPTER III FINDING AND DISCUSSION</b>	
3.1 Kurt Cobain's Psychological Development.....	22
3.1.1 Kurt Cobain's First Stage.....	22
3.1.2 Kurt Cobain's Second Stage.....	24
3.1.3 Kurt Cobain's Third Stage .....	26
3.1.4 Kurt Cobain's Fourth Stage.....	28
3.1.5 Kurt Cobain's Fifth Stage .....	31
3.1.6 Kurt Cobain's Sixth Stage.....	38
3.2 Kurt Cobain's Psychological Virtues, Malignancies and Maladaptions.....	41
3.2.1 Kurt Cobain's Outcomes of the First Stage .....	42
3.2.2 Kurt Cobain's Outcomes of the Second Stage ....	44
3.2.3 Kurt Cobain's Outcomes of the Third Stage.....	47





# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, problem of study, and the objective of the study.

### 1.1. Background of the study

Identity is a conceptual thing that every person have, which is an outcome of a combination of one's aspects. Santrock (1997) divides identity into ten aspects; career identity, politic identity, spiritual identity, relation identity, intellectual identity, sexual identity, ethnical identity, interest, personality, and physical identity. These aspects relate each other in a long time process. Identity is a dynamic concept, which means it could change overtime through the crisis and contradictions experiences in life, which every individual has to overcome in order to complete their identity.

According to Erikson theory, there are eight stages of human development. In every stage, an individual will face a crisis of that needs to be overcome in order move to the next stage. These crises are seen as turning points that marked by the increasing of mental strength and potency (Santrock, 1997). The idea of overcoming these crises and the contradictions by an individual it is called identity crisis (Erikson, 1994).

There are two type of identity as an outcome of Erikson's stages of human development. The first outcome is positive identity. This identity can be achieved if an individual can overcome those eight crises in the stages of human



psychological development. The second outcome is negative identity, which is an outcome of a failure to overcoming those eight crises in the stages of human psychological development (Erikson, 1994).

The identity of a person could be determined if he could passes all of the stages of psychological development, whether they could overcome each crisis in each stage or not. The positive identity that is an outcome of a combination of mental strength: trust, autonomy, initiative, industry, identity, intimacy, generativity, integrity. If they cannot overcome each crisis in each stage, they tend to develop a negative identity, which is an outcome of a combination of negative mental strength: mistrust, shame and doubt, guilt, inferiority, identity confusion, isolation, stagnation, despair.

Moreover, the writer also uses psychosocial virtues, malignancies and maladaptions theory from C. George Boeree as the complements for Erikson's theory of psychological development. According to Boeree (2006, p.6), the outcome of every stage is not that simple as positive and negative identity. The outcomes of every crisis are what Boeree called psychosocial virtues – the positive outcome; malignancies and maladaptions – the negative outcomes.

In this study, the writer will use a psychoanalysis approach that is Erikson's theory of psychological development and also Boeree's theory of psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions. The object that the writer uses to analyze is the main character in the biography of Kurt Cobain written by Charles R. Cross.



Farner (2014) stated that: 'While nonfiction refers to reality and is expected to render the truth, fiction is a product of imagination which cannot be tested for truth or falsity.' From this quotation, it can be understood that biography belongs to the nonfiction genre of written narrative because biography present the facts and truths about someone's life in it.

However, according to Gutkind (2012), the truths contained in nonfiction can be presented, described, defined, or summarized, by using a literary crafts or literary devices. The reason of using literary devices is 'to make nonfiction stories are read like fiction so that your readers are as enthralled by fact as they are by fantasy. But the stories are true.' Gutkind named the genre of this type of nonfiction written in a fiction writing style is creative or literary nonfiction.

One of the nonfiction books that belong to this genre is Charles R. Cross' *Heavier Than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain* (2001). Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain belongs to this genre because he writes the fact he acquired by employing literary devices in his book.

Charles R. Cross write this biography of Kurt Cobain over four years by doing approximately 400 interviews and an access to Cobain's private journals, lyrics and photos, that given by Cobain's widow, Courtney Love. *Heavier Than Heaven* published August 15, in 2001.

The life of Kurt Cobain (1967-1994) cannot be separated from his successful musical career. The popularity of Nirvana – his band, would not reach the top of the world without Cobain's popularity. Cobain is not only known by the world as a lead singer and guitarist from Nirvana, but also because of his



addiction on drugs and his suicide in 1994 (Biography.com Editors, 2015). His parents divorced when he was 9 years old, and he seek for love that he had once before his parents divorced, but he found it was not the same love anymore. He lived a nomad live by moved from a house to another house of his family, but it ends all the same: they kicked out Cobain after he makes a trouble that comes from his bad attitude. At that time, he still searching for the love that he wanted to have, but he can't found it on his family either.

So, he left his family, live with his friends and seek for things as an escape from his disappointment to his family, which are drugs and music. He made Nirvana, and put a great effort in that band, because he wanted to be popular and his band gain success. But, because of his effort on made the successful of Nirvana, which is basically his escapes from his childhood problem, he does not realize one thing: He will be popular. Together with the Nirvana popularity, his popularity also going to the top – or get big attention because he is the front man of Nirvana and because his talent on playing guitar and singing was unique. He wanted the popularity for his band because it is what a band needs, but he does not want the popularity for himself.

He confused how to behave by this condition; he wanted to live his life as he wanted to be. Then the popularity comes, makes him uncomfortably mad because he does not wanted it all. In 1994, when Nirvana was in the peak of its popularity, so as Cobain himself, he decided to end his life because he cannot take anymore popularity and his stomach disease by shoot his own head with a



shotgun. The reason of his suicide was remain unsolved until this day and many people make hypothesis about it.

His decision of committing suicide is not made because of only those reasons, but it is rooted back to his early years and his adolescents. He does not live a life as a normal kid with a family. Instead of lived a normal life, he searched for anything that could give him an identity – or accept his identity but he does not found it. He made an escape through music and drugs, he forgot about searching his identity. He still had a dream of a perfect family, but he does not get it either in his musical career and his own life, which affected his reason to ends his life. That is why the writer using Erikson's theory of human psychological development to analyze this biography to know what impacts given by Cobain's odd life to his psychological development.

### **1.2. Problem of the study**

The problem of this study focused on how Kurt passed his stages of Erikson's psychological development and what outcomes shown in each stage of psychological development theory proposed by Erik H. Erikson.

### **1.3. Objective of the study**

The objective of this research is focused on analyzing Charles R. Cross's Heavier Than Heaven to find how Kurt Cobain passed the stages of Erikson's human psychological development. The writer also analyzed the biography to find what outcome appeared in each stage of this psychological development. The main theory used is the theory of psychological development by Erik H. Erikson





## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter provides theoretical framework and previous studies related to the analysis. By using human psychological development theory proposed by Erik H. Erikson, the writer can know the development of Kurt Cobain's psychological aspects.

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

##### 2.1.1 Psychological Approach

Psychological approach can be used to analyze characters in a book because the characters had psychological aspects that shape their behavior and the way of thinking. McManus (1998) stated "the psychological theory becomes a tool that explains the characters' behavior and motivation." Psychological approach is preferable to use for analyzing a character in a literary works because it studies about the dynamic of personality, the structure of a personality and also psychological development.

Psychological approach is one of many methods that can be used as tool to analyze a literary works, especially the characters, because the characters in a literary works basically have a behavior, a way of thinking and also the psychiatric matters as human in the reality.

Ratna (2003, p. 343) stated that there are three ways that can be conducted to understand the relation between literature and psychology. First, understand the psychiatric matter of the author; second, understand the psychiatric matter of the



fictional characters in a literary work; third, understand the psychiatric matter of the reader of a literary work.

Furthermore, (Minderop, 2011) stated that there are several ways to understand the psychiatric matter of a fictional character. The first method is telling and showing methods. This method focused on the way an author characterized his/her characters. Telling methods is a method when an author characterized his/her characters by giving explanations or comments about the characteristics. In other hand, showing methods is a method that used by an author when they explain a character indirectly; through dialogue with other characters, settings and situation, dialects, and characters' vocabularies (Minderop 2005).

The second method is point of view techniques. This method focused on the third point of view – especially the all-knowing presence third point of view. An author using this point of view to have a freedom to tell, dramatize, philosophize the story in a literary work (Minderop, 2005).

The third method is by looking into the style of language used in the literary work. The style of language that could be focused on are simile, metaphor personification and symbol. This style of language basically used to give an explanation of a character or an object (Minderop, 2011).

Therefore, the writer will used Minderops's methods of analyzing a literary work as a tool to analyze the object of this research.

### **2.1.2 Psychoanalysis**

Psychoanalysis was introduced by Sigmund Freud in the 1890's. He said that human psychological developments are related to the human sexual

development, and he divided the human psychological development into 5 stages:

Oral stages, Anal stages, Phallic stage, Latent stage and Genital stage. All of his stages are related to the human sexual parts development.

However, according to the book written by Erik H. Erikson in 1959 and 1968, Human psychological aspects were developed with stages that based on the psychosocial theory, not from the psychosexual theory. Erikson thinks that the main motivation of a human is to become a social persons; to interact and relate to others, and the human psychological development are happened in their lifetime.

Human will always interact with others and it is the main things that makes the human psychological aspects develops. Erikson's theory of human psychological development divided a lifetime of a human into eight stages, from the early years of a human until the last years of a human lifetime.

The writer conclude that theory of human psychological development from Erikson is the theory that suited to analyze Kurt Cobain psychological development from the book *Heavier Than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain* written by Charles R. Cross because the book tells the life of Kurt Cobain from his birth until his death.

### **2.1.3 Human Psychological Development by Erik Erikson**

The psychological aspects of a person will be develop following the increasing of someone age. The psychological aspects of a person can develop because as the increasing of their age. They will face a bigger world and a more complex society in certain point of events in their lifetime. Erikson's theory of



human psychological development gave an explanation of the development of one's psychological aspects and its correlation with one's behavior.

Erikson proposed the idea of the stages of human psychological development and a point of crisis as a support for his theory. According to

Erikson, there are eight stages of human psychological development. In every stage an individual will face a crisis of that needs to overcome in order move to the next stages and to develop a traits that required to faces the world and the society.

Overcoming the crisis in a stage were important to a human psychological development, because if someone cannot overcome a crisis in one stage, they will develop a negative traits. According to Santrock (2011), Erikson divided a human life time into eight stages of human psychological development and every stage has their own crisis. The writer explains every stages and their crisis in a brief explanation of human psychological development below:

### **1. Trust Versus Mistrust**

The first stage of human psychological development is the crisis of trust versus mistrust. This crisis experienced in the baby period. A baby's trust will create a fundamental base for their expectation that the world will be a safe and comfort place for their life.

This stage is important for a baby to successfully give their trust to their parents. Baby can trust their parents when their parents fulfill what a baby can do; fulfilling the needs of the baby because they cannot doing it on their own. If their

parents did not do it well, baby will develop a mistrust feeling towards their parents, they will feel that their parents does not love them or hate them.

**2. Autonomy Versus Shame and Doubt**

The crisis that takes time in the first until the third year of human life is the crisis of autonomy versus shame and doubt, which is the second stage of human psychological development. After they trust their surroundings, they will discover that their behavior is decided by themselves. They will show their self-reliance or their autonomy. If they are experience this period with prohibitions and punished too hard for their fault, they tend to develop shame and doubt traits.

After they trust their parents, a child will develop their self reliance and independence. They will discover their surroundings and try to do everything with their surroundings, and sometimes it leads to a mistake like breaking something. If they were punished too hard because their fault, they will feel shame because of their curiosity and they will stop their curiosity because they doubt themselves that they will break anything again.

**3. Initiative Versus Guilt**

The crisis of initiative versus guilt, which happened in the period of pre-school or when an individual is on their third until fifth year old is the third stages of psychological development. When he is entering the social life, they will face a challenge that insist them develop their active and objective behaviors. They were expected to have a responsibility towards themselves like their body and their behavior and also their surroundings like their toys, pets. If they are considered as irresponsible, they will feel guilty and worried about themselves.



A child in this stage will start to interact with persons around them and they will start to take care of things that belong to them. and if they were failed and their surroundings judge them irresponsible, they will develop a traits of worrying about things they have and things they do.

**4. Industry Versus Inferiority**

Industry versus inferiority crisis is the fourth stage of the development and it is experienced by human in their period of primary school (6 years old until their puberty, 12 or 13 years old). The initiative behavior of child will bring them a set of new experiences and they will give out their energy to gain a new knowledge and intellectual skills. They willingness and the enthusiasm to learn is at it is peak in this period, which is the late period of their childhood. The danger that appears in this period is that children can develop inferiority - they feel they are not competent or not productive because of their failure on learning something.

In this stage, a child they will not only interact with their surroundings, they will try to make something or do something to make a new thing in their life, like making a new friends or winning a game. If they often failed to do it, they will feel that they are incompetence in doing anything and they will stop doing anything because they are too tired of losing and failing and they become not productive.

**5. Identity Versus Identity Confusion**

The fifth stage of the development is the crisis of identity versus identity confusion. An individual will face a challenge to find who he is, what he become,



and which direction they choose in their life in his adolescent (13 – 19 years old).

They will know that there are many roles in life and status of adultery – job and romance as examples. If they passed this crisis with a good way and still in the direction, they will have a positive identity, but if they do not, they will suffer identity confusion.

After have their puberty, a child will grow up into a teenager. In this age, they will establish some standards about their surroundings, like what they likes, what they hate, what is their hobbies and etc. They will construct their way of life and its direction by making those standards. They also imitate the adults that close to them to make an expectation about their upcoming adultery. If there were no adults around them to be their role model, they will not know where direction to point their way of life, and they will confuse about their identity.

**6. Intimacy Versus Isolation**

The crisis of intimacy versus isolation that experienced by human in the period of young adult (19 – 31 years old) is the sixth stage of human psychological development. In this stage, a human expected to have close relationships with other person that more than friend, like a best friends or a partners in their romance that indicate an intimate relationships. Human will feel that they already had a person to live and share everything together. If they cannot established an intimate relationships, they will develop a trait of abandoned and isolated by others; they feel that they do not have somebody that close to them, everyone is their acquaintance.



Human expected to build a relation with others. If they can create a positive relationship with others and can stand an intimate relationship with others, they are successfully overcome this crisis. If they cannot overcome this crisis, they will feel they are isolated by others.

**7. Generativity Versus Stagnation**

The seventh stage of the human psychological development is the crisis of generativity versus stagnation, which happens in the middle of adulthood (31 years old until 60 years old). The main problem in this period is how they help the young generation to lead their life to positive direction – or what Erikson said as generativity. So, the feeling of not contribute anything for the youth generation is called stagnation.

A human in their middle adulthood needs to share what they learn in their life experiences to the younger human, to feel that were successful in their life and they feel that they life experiences are useful to the younger and human and give them a satisfied feelings. If they cannot share their life experiences and lead the younger human to the positive direction, they will feel that they are failed and they are not meaningful to others.

**8. Integrity Versus Despair**

The last stage of the development is the crisis of integrity versus despair. An individual will try to reflect his life in the past by reflect the way they spend their life by looking into their positive or negative development. They will make a conclusion or a portrait of his past life which should be a good portrait in order to overcome this crisis – in order to reach integrity. If they think that they passes





those stages with a negative results, they tend to emerge guilty feeling or hopelessness, which called by Erikson as despair.

The writer will used these stages of psychological development as the frame to analyze Kurt Cobain psychological development. Every stage had their own age range - for example, the crisis of autonomy versus shame and guilt that happened between the 1<sup>st</sup> until the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of someone. The writer will analyze Kurt Cobain's psychological by applying the stages of the psychological development with his aging in his biography, to see how his psychological aspects develop and what results is shown in each stages of Erikson's psychological development.

**2.1.4 Psychological Virtues, Malignancies and Maladaptions by C. George Boeree**

Boeree (2006) explain more about what Erikson stated that a human will develop positive or negative traits as an outcome of every stage. The outcomes of psychological crisis are psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions. Psychological virtues is the positive outcome of the crisis in a stage. It is the good traits that a human develop when he or she succeeds overcoming the crisis.

Meanwhile, malignancies and maladaptions are the negative outcome of the crisis in a stage. Malignancies is the outcome that happened when a human develop too little of the positive and too much of the negative aspects.

Maladaption happened when a human develop too much positive and too little negative aspects (Boeree, 2006).



For example, malignancy in the second stage is a great feeling of shame and doubt that will develop into an attitude of fear in doing something not perfect. In the other hand, maladaptation in this stage is a high level of self-reliance that will develop into an impulsiveness or stubbornness.

Erikson’s human psychological development and Boeree’s theory of psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions will be used in this study. The writer will only used the first until the sixth stages of human psychological development to analyze Kurt Cobain’s psychological development because Cobain commits suicide in age 27, which is included in the age range of the sixth stage of psychological development (20-30 years old).

**2.2 Previous Studies**

There are some previous studies that have similarities with this research. The most similar studies with this research is the study conducted by R. Hariyanti Susanti (2016) from Universitas Brawijaya entitled *The Impacts of Abusive Environment on Psychological Development of Sheila in Torey Hayden’s One Child*. The significance of Susanti’s study for the writer’s study is as the referent to another theory – Boeree theory of psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptation – that can be used as a supporting theory in this research. Susanti explains Boeree’s theory and its application in a very clear and understandable way.

The second study is entitled *Personality Development of Landon Carter’s in His Adolescence Period in Nicholas Sparks’ A Walk to Remember* written by Tommy Syahrial (2012) from Universitas Brawijaya. Syahrial used psychosocial





theory by Erikson with identity with personality development as his concentration. Syahrial's study is helps the writer by giving a clear example of the application of Erikson's theory of psychosocial in analyzing a character of a literary works.

### 2.3 Research Method

In conducting the research, there are five steps taken; first, deciding the object of the study. Second, deciding the theory and the approach. Third, collecting and classifying the data. Fourth, analyzing the data and fifth, drawing conclusion.

#### 2.3.1 Deciding the Object of the Data

The object of this research is the main or the dominant character in the biography written by Charles R. Cross, *Heavier Than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain*. The main character to be analyzed is Kurt Cobain. Kurt Cobain has been through many psychological problems in his life, especially in his childhood, like the absence of his parents as his role model, the wound and disappointment from the rejection of himself that done by other family member and his friends, his addiction to drugs as an escape for his problems etc. He also has been through

The reason why the writer choose this biography of Kurt Cobain written by Charles R. Cross is many accomplishments; the popularity of Nirvana, the marriage between her and Courtney Love, also the coming of his child, Frances Bean Cobain, but it all ended with his suicide in the 1994. Cobain's psychological development in *Heavier Than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain* becomes the formal object of the study, because this book present the complete and detail

biography of Kurt Cobain entire life. To write the biography, Cross conducting approximately 400 interviews with Cobain acquaintances, including his family, his band members; Dave Grohl, Krist Novoselic, and also Cobain widow, Courtney Love, whom then give Cross access to Cobain private journal and photos.

Although there are other biographies of Kurt Cobain, like *Nirvana: The Biography* written by Everest True and *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana* written by Michael Azzerad, the writer still choose *Heavier Than Heaven* as the object of this research. The writer finds that the other biography mentioned before was too biased- it is focusing more in the journey of the Nirvana, and it is lack of authorization: the writer did not have the permission -or did not confirm that they are going to write a biography of Cobain- from his family and his widow, Courtney Love.

The writer choose this biography of Kurt Cobain is not because the writer would like to see the facts that Charles R. Cross choose to used in this biography, but because this biography is the most complete and the most detail biography of Kurt Cobain. It is important to choose a biography of Kurt Cobain that had detail and complete information about his lifetime because the writer will analyze Kurt Cobain's psychological development for his entire lifetime, which is cannot be done if the writer used a biography that is not detail and complete enough.

**2.3.2 Deciding The Theory and The Approach**

The writer will use the Erik Erikson's theory of the human psychological development as the tools to analyze Kurt Cobain psychological development



because this theory is applicable to analyze the biography of Kurt Cobain.

Erikson's human psychological development theory cover the psychological development of human in a lifetime period. So, it is suited the concept of a biography, that tells the whole lifetime of a person.

Although there are other theory of psychological development, such as Freudian psychological development which proposed by Sigmund Freud, the writer choose Erik Erikson theory as the one that applicable to the object of this research.

The object of this research is the main character of the biography, Kurt Cobain. The biography told Kurt Cobain's life from the day he born in this earth until the day he left this earth. Erikson's theory of psychological development also told human psychological development from the very beginning until the end of human life.

In the other hand, Freud's theory focused on the children psychological development rather on the human psychological development as a whole; from the stage of childhood until the late adultery. Freud's theory of human psychological development have five stages; four stages in a range from 0 age until the age of puberty, and one stage from the age of puberty until the age of adultery; which the writer thinks it will be not applicable and contribute in this research because it is not detailed enough to reveal Cobain's identity crisis.

Therefore, the writer used Erikson's human psychological development theory as the tools of this research.





### 2.3.3 Collecting and Classifying the Data

The writer will collect the data needed from the object by reading the biography in detail, mark the sentences or the paragraphs in the biography that indicates Kurt Cobain's life from year to year, and mark the sentences or the paragraphs in the biography that are considered as the important events of his life.

To classify the data, the writer will read *Heavier Than Heaven: A Biography of Kurt Cobain* carefully to observe and to match his aging with Erikson's stages of human psychological development. The writer will take notes and quote some parts of the narration that indicate the characterization of Kurt Cobain and the turning point events in the biography. The writer will also take notes and quote some parts of the narration that indicate the characterization of Kurt Cobain and the outcomes of every stage using Boeree's theory of psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions.

### 2.3.4 Analyzing the Data

In this step, the writer will give a clear description and explanation about how is Kurt Cobain's psychological development in each stage of Erikson's stages of psychological development. The writer will also give a clear description and explanation about what outcomes shown by Kurt Cobain in each stage of his psychological development by using Boeree's theory of psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions.





## CHAPTER III

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This first sub chapter will discuss about Kurt's psychological development by using Erikson's theory of psychological development. The result of each stage of the psychological development will be discussed in the second sub chapter by using Boeree's theory of malignancies, maladaptions, and psychological virtues.

#### 3.1 Kurt Cobain's Psychological Development

##### 3.1.1 Kurt Cobain's First Stage

Erikson explains that this stage focused on how the baby will trust their parents. A baby in this stage cannot do anything on their own, so they cling to his/her parents to take care of their needs. If their parents treat him/her well, they will trust their parents as someone that love them and giving them a hope to live.

It is very important for a child to gain virtue of hope in their early life.

They need to gain the virtue of hope so when they are older and facing a crisis, they will not fear it and have a hope that someone will help him through it.

Kurt Cobain parents, Don and Wendy Cobain, give him their best to fulfill his needs. Even though they struggle to get decent money, but they will do their best if it is for Kurt.

The Cobain's struggled to stay within a budget, yet when it came to Kurt, they made sure he was well-dressed, and even sprang for professional photos. In one series of pictures from this era, Kurt is wearing a white dress shirt, black tie, and a gray suit, looking like Little Lord Fauntleroy – he still has his baby fat and chubby, full cheeks. (Cross, 2001, p. 8)



Besides financial support, his parents also give him the love that makes him trust his parents to take care of him. His mother giving him her love by taking care most of his needs all the time. It makes Kurt loves and trusts his parents very much, even for his father; who works in the day and going home at night.

‘His mother takes care of him most of the time,’ Mari wrote. [She] shows her affection by holding him, giving him praise when he deserves it, and by taking part in many of his activities. He responds to his father in that when he sees his father, he smiles, and he likes his dad to hold him. He makes his wants known by yelling loudly at first, then crying if the first technique doesn’t work.’ (Cross, 2001, p.8)

Kurt’s love and trust to his parents were very high that when he was put to sleep, he will cry because he does not want his parents to leave him alone to sleep; which means that Kurt will lose his parents’ affection and care in his crib. His Aunt stated in Cross’ book that:

“Of Kurt’s daily routine, she wrote that ‘his reaction to sleep is that he cries when he is laid down to do so. He is so interested in the family that he doesn’t want to leave them.’” (Cross, 2001, p. 8)

According to Erikson, the goal of the first stage in this psychological development is when a baby shows the trust and the love to their surroundings but still capable to not trusts others (Santrock, 2011). Kurt seemed like pass this stage successfully as what his Aunt (Cross, 2001, p. 8) concluded about his personality that he is a happy, smiling baby and his personality is developing as it is because of the attention and love he is receiving from his parents.

From the quotation above, it can be assumed that Kurt psychological aspects in this stage develops well; his parents provide him with everything he needs and it is successfully built a foundation of trust in him to his parents.



### 3.1.2 Kurt Cobain's Second Stage

In this stage, a child will be curious about their surroundings and try to do something with their surroundings by themselves. This stage it is about self-reliance and autonomy. The result of this stage is the child will be independent but still tolerant to others' weakness – they will have self-esteem toward everything they wanted to do.

The first act of Kurt's interaction with his surrounding is by creating an imaginary friend he named Boddah. He interacts with Boddah way too much that his parents told him that Boddah was gone to the Vietnam with his Uncle because they are worried about Kurt.

Not long after he turned two, Kurt created an imaginary friend he called Boddah. His parents eventually became concerned about his attachment to this phantom pal, so when an uncle was sent to Vietnam, Kurt was told that Boddah too had been drafted. But Kurt didn't completely buy this story. (Cross, 2001, p. 9)

His autonomy is also shown earlier when he was one and a half year old by an act that looked like he helps his aunt solving a problem of lowering his crib (Cross, 2001, p. 9). When his aunt has a difficulty in lowering his crib, Kurt do something that looks like he tried to help his Aunt to lower his crib.

His curiosity about his surroundings does not stop there: he starts involving himself in sports. This involvement in sports will be continued as he grows older. Cross (2001, p. 19), told how Kurt began to participate in athletics by starting playing it in his neighborhood, and then went to organized play.

The writer assumed that Kurt successfully passed this stage because he develops the traits of independence and also tolerant that shown by one of the



story of Kurt that Cross (2011) told in his book. When Kurt was five, in a summer evening, Don –Kurt’s father – found a rat in his home. He intended to kill the rat by making a weapon – by tying a butcher knife in a broom stick – which attracted Kurt that was playing with his neighbors in the house.

Don went to the garage with Kurt behind him. Knowing this could be dangerous to Kurt, Don warned Kurt to stay back. But Kurt, pushed by his great abundance of curiosity, ignores his father warning and stands beside his father holding to his jeans. When the rat shows up, Don threw his weapon but he missed; the rat dodged it and run to Don, climbed his leg, across his shoulder and also crawled through Kurt shoulder before went down from Kurt’s leg and run away.

Kurt and Don freeze when the rat crawled in their body and burst into laugh when the rat finishes his escapes.

From the story above, Kurt shows his autonomy by tries to involved in his father works, but he did not do the work because his father tell him to not doing anything and he obeyed his father warning as the act of his tolerance: he follows his father warning and accepts that his father is the one that will get the rat. Even though his curiosity and interest were very high, he can contain it and let his father doing it while he standing besides his father holding to his pants.

By looking to the story, it can be assumed that Kurt develops a positive psychological aspect. He shows how he trying to be independent – by trying to get closer to the rat – and how he tolerate his parents warning to not get closer and do anything to the rat.



### 3.1.3 Kurt Cobain's Third Stage

McLeod (2013, para. 25-27) stated that a child will try to participate in many social activities that relevant to their age in this stage, which is play. They will seek or initiate activities that provide them with a possibility to discover the skills related with socializing with others, like the leadership and decision-making skill. If they were not given the opportunity to discover their skills whether it is by criticism or control, they will develop the guilty characteristics, as they thinks they are not capable of doing anything.

The goal of this stage is when a child is having a virtue of purpose; the confidence and the braveness to initiate an activity in their social life without the fear of judgment from others. But they still needs to experience some guilt in this stage in order to prevent them into a sociopath; doing and forcing anything they want without thinking what they will brings for others.

In the age of four, Kurt entered a local school in his neighborhood. His mother only accompany him in the first day of school and then he is on his own; this is the time that he will interact as much as he can with his environment to get the sense of initiative and the confidence to lead others and making a decision.

One of Kurt's initiative behaviors is shown from the quotation below:

Wendy walked him to school the first day, but after that he was on his own; the neighborhood around First Street had become his turf. He was well-known to his teachers as a precocious, inquisitive pupil with a Snoopy lunchbox. On his report card that year his teacher wrote "real good student." He was not shy. When a bear cub was brought in for show-and-tell, Kurt was one of the only kids who posed with it for photos. (Cross, 2001, p. 11)



From the quotation above, it can be seen that Kurt did not shy to interact with others, even if it is something that he did not know before, like a bear cub. Different from his friend, he bravely posed with the bear cub for photos. His teacher also describe him as a clever and eager to know something; which the teacher appraised by wrote “real good student” in his report card. It can be seen that despite his initiative of creating activities, his teacher never control or critic his initiative too much that he would not be confident to know and do something new. Another Kurt’s initiative act is shown by the quotation below:

Leland was a gruff and crusty character, and when his grandson showed off a picture of Mickey Mouse that he’d drawn (Kurt loved Disney characters), Leland accused him of tracing it. “I did not,” Kurt said. “You did, too,” Leland responded. Leland gave Kurt a new piece of paper and a pencil and challenged him: “Here, you draw me another one and show me how you did it.” The six-year-old sat down, and without a model drew a near-perfect illustration of Donald Duck and another of Goofy. He looked up from the paper with a huge grin, just as pleased at showing up his grandfather as in creating his beloved duck. (Cross, 2001, p. 12)

In the quotation above, Kurt showed his initiative act by draw a picture of Mickey Mouse and he used his picture to interact with his grandfather by showing off his picture to him. His grandfather did not believe that Kurt draw it from the scratch – which is the criticism towards Kurt’s initiative behavior – and accused Kurt that he tracing a picture of Mickey Mouse. In his own defense, Kurt said that he did not tracing it, so Leland (his grandfather) give him a paper and a pencil for Kurt to draw in front of him. Kurt ended up draw a nice picture of Donald Duck and he showed it to Leland with a happy face.

Even though he had been criticized by his grandfather, he is still able to keep confident and accepts the challenge given by his grandfather to draw a new



picture, which he nailed nicely. It can be assumed that from this event, Kurt wanted his grandfather to recognize the skill that he acquired by initiating an activity of drawing a cartoon characters to boost his confidence in drawing.

By the quotations and the explanation above, it can be seen that Kurt successfully gains the virtue of purpose. He initiates and involves in many activities and he get the sufficient amount of guilt that prevented him to be an egoist person or a sociopath.

**3.1.4 Kurt Cobain’s Fourth Stage**

McLeod (2013, para. 33) stated that this stage is the stage where a child will try to do things on their own and they will learn to acquire specific skills.

They will understand that they were needed to make certain demonstration with the specific competencies that valued by the society to get an approval. They will also develop their sense of pride from their success in demonstrating the specific competencies.

The children that encouraged and reinforced for their initiative of doing things, they begin to feel productive and confident in their ability to accomplish some achievements. If their initiative is not encouraged or restricted by their parents or teacher, they will feel they are inferior to others and they will doubt their abilities so they will not reach their own potential.

Like the other stages, a balance of between their accomplishment and failure is needed to acquire the psychological virtue of this stage, that is the virtue of competency. The child can be said achieving the virtue of competency when



they are still confident in doing things and also stay humble for their accomplishment.

In accordance with the explanation regarding how a child will acts in this stage above, Kurt tries to do many things and try to accomplish an achievement to get an approval from the society. His first initiative to get an approval from others is starting in his own house; he wanted to get approvals from his family.

At times, like all children, Kurt was a terror. Most of his acting out incidents were minor the time – he'd write on the walls or slam the door or tease his sister. These behaviors frequently elicited a spanking, but Don's more common – and almost daily – physical punishment was to take two fingers and thump Kurt on the temple or the chest. It only hurt a little, but the psychological damage was deep – it made his son fear greater physical harm and It server to reinforce Don's dominance. Kurt began to retreat into the closet in his room the kinf or enclosed, confined spaces that would give others panic attacks were the very places he sought out as sanctuary (Cross, 2001, p. 17)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Kurt demonstrates his choice of competencies like drawing in the wall, slamming door, and teasing his sister to get an approval from his family. Unfortunately, rather than gives Kurt an approval from the things that he done, or encourages him by facilitating his initiative, his father discourage and suppress his initiative by giving him a punishment. Kurt responded to the punishment given by his father by turn himself inward by hiding in the closet with the fear of his father.

Despite his father punishment, he never gives up to demonstrate his competencies to get an approval from his father. After his attempts to get an approval from his father of the artistic demonstration rejected, he tried sport activities and it is successfully get him the approval from his father:



Baseball was an example of Kurt's seeking Don's approval. "Kurt and my dad got along well when he was young," Remembered Kim, "but Kurt wasn't anything like how Dad was planning on Kurt turning out." (Cross, 2001, p. 20)

Even though it makes Kurt get the approval he needed from his father, Kurt was not really like to do it. It can be seen from what his sister, Kimberly Cobain, stated about how Kurt grew into somebody that is very different from his father's plan about him.

Besides arts and sports demonstration as a way to get approvals, he also did the demonstration of bravery and never back off a challenge. He showed his braveness from when he went to the Disneyland and Knotts Berry Farm with his grandparents, Leland and Iris Cobain (Cross, 2001, p. 18).

In that event, Kurt wanted to get an approval from his grandparents by showing how brave and fearless he is by insisting his grandparents to accompany him rides the Pirates of Caribbean's ride three times in Disneyland. While in the Knotts Berry Farm, he shows his bravery by rides a giant roller coaster there and after it is finished and he thought he get the approval from his grandparents, Leland Cobain asked him whether it is enough or not for him to ride another entertainment ride. Kurt, feeling that his bravery is rejected by his grandfather and also feel challenged by him, went back ride the roller coaster once again just to prove that he is not scare and wanted to ride another entertainment rides (Cross, 2001, p. 18).

Meanwhile in Universal Studios, Kurt showed his braveness by leaned out of the train in the *Jaws* ride in the front of the live shark – just to get a picture of the inner parts of the shark's mouth – with the teeth of the shark just inches away



from his camera. He done all of those dangerous things just to get the approval from his parents how fearless he is as a child.

From the quotation above it can be said that Kurt passed this stage nicely, but despite many things he had demonstrate to get the approval from the people around him, he cannot finish the stage to get his competency. It happens because when he is nine years old, his parents divorced and it affects his psychological state more than anything that happens in this stage. His grandmother (Cross, 2001, p. 22) described the year when his parents divorce, 1976, as “Kurt’s year in purgatory.”

The discussion of how his parent divorce affects his development of competency will be discussed in the Kurt Cobain’s psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions’ chapter.

### 3.1.5 Kurt Cobain’s Fifth Stage

According to Santrock (2011), this stage happened in the adolescence period of a person, from 12-18 years old. An adolescent explores their society intensely to find the personal values, beliefs and goals that will give them a sense of self and personal identity. They will know that there are many roles and status in the society - like a role in a job or in a relationship with others. Erikson (1968) explained that the identities they wanted to find in this stage are sexual or occupational identities. Occupational identity is the identity of someone in the scope of what they wanted to become in the society; sexual identity is the identity of someone that related to their relationship with others. According to Savin-Williams (1998), sexual identity is a matter of forming an enduring recognition of



the meaning of one's sexual feelings, attractions, and behaviors. A human that acquire the sexual identity in this stage will have certain human qualities that are associated with men or women.

By exploring their surroundings, children will make certain standards in it; like what they like, what they do not like, or what are their hobbies. After they finished making the standards, they will re-examine whether the standards suits them well or not; whether it is their true identity or they still need to explore more.

Kurt's first attempt to find his sexual identity is started by finding someone who can make him feel safe and someone who he can trust. He cannot find it in his parents anymore because he had been hurts much because of their divorce, and the fact that his father married again rather than reconciled with his ex-wife makes him disappointed and losing hope he had. Kurt decided to left his father's house and move to the house of his family and relatives, with a hope that he can find the love and the attention that he needed, and to find someone that he can look up for finding his sexual identity:

It was at his own insistence that in March of 1982, Kurt left 413 Fleet Street and his father and stepmother-s care. Kurt would spend the next few years bouncing around the metaphorical wilderness of Grays Harbor. Though he'd make two stops that were a year in length, over the next four years he would live in ten different houses, with ten different families. Not one of them would feel like home (Cross, 2001, p. 39).

Kurt not moved just once to a home of his family or relative, but he moved ten times, from a home to another home and lived with ten families, each with different period of time. The reason why he moved many times because he cannot find the family that could he trusts, that could makes him feel comfort and safe.



He needs to trusts them before he saw them as someone he can look up to, and because he cannot trust them, he left them and moved to another home and so on.

His reason for moving from one house to another house is also explained in the Cross' book (2001) page 40:

He was the quintessential latchkey kid. He got along better with his uncles and aunts than he did with his parents, yet authority issues followed him. His uncles and aunts were less strict, yet in the more laid-back households there was less of an attempt at structured family togetherness. His relatives had problems and struggles of their own – there wasn't anyone with the space for him, both physically and emotionally, and Kurt knew it.

Despite his good relationship with his uncles and aunts when he reside in their houses, and despite his uncles and aunts that had more tolerance for him more than his parents, he did not feels that he belongs to their family. Every family he lived with have their own problems and they did not saw Kurt as part of their family forever: they saw Kurt as a boy who needed some space from his family. They think Kurt existence in their home is just a temporarily resides.

Therefore, Kurt did not felt that they accept him as part of their families and Kurt knew it; that is why he moved from a family to another family because he cannot find the family that fully accept him.

His lack of socialization skill makes him difficult to relate and position himself in the society, especially in the school. His lack of socialization skill also contribute in his difficulty to discover his sexual identity by restrain himself to know the sexual qualities – like sexual feeling, attraction, and behavior – that are suitable for himself. When he was fifteen years old, he transferred from his school in Montesano to a high school where his parents graduated from, Weatherwax

High in Aberdeen. He finds it difficult to fit in the factions – groups of high school students that based on interests, like jocks is for student who likes sport, stoners is for students who like to used drugs, and etc. – because he had the identity of an musician and artist, but he did not know where he belongs among the high school society. His lack of socialization skill is shown in the quotation below:

Kurt continued to go to school in Monte through the second month of his sophomore year, but then transferred to Aberdeen's Weatherwax High. It was the same school his mother and father graduated from, but despite the family roots and the proximity to his mother's home – it was ten blocks away – he was an outsider there. ... In Aberdeen, Kurt found himself in a school with four factions – stoners, jocks, preppies, and nerds – and he initially fit into none of them. "Aberdeen was full of cliques." observed Rick Miller, another Monte boy who transferred to Weatherwax. "Neither one of us really knew anybody. Even though Aberdeen was Hicksville compared to Seattle, it was still a major step up from Monte. We never could figure out where we fit in." Changing schools as a sophomore would have been difficult for most well-adjusted teenagers; it was torturous for Kurt (Cross, 2001, p. 41).

In the quotation above, his friend who transferred to Weatherwax Rick Miller also spoke about how he suffer a difficulty in trying to fit in the society of his new school:

'Neither one of us really knew anybody. Even though Aberdeen was Hicksville compared to Seattle, it was still a major step up from Monte. We never could figure out where we fit in (Cross, 2001, p. 41).'

For Kurt, the difficulty in trying to fit in his new school was doubled; he does not only have a difficulty to find a new friend, but he also did not know how to build a relationship with others. Another quotation from Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain showed how he try to maintained his relationship with his friends

from his old school in Montesano, but it still does not cut to make him feel that he is accepted by the society and he is not alone:

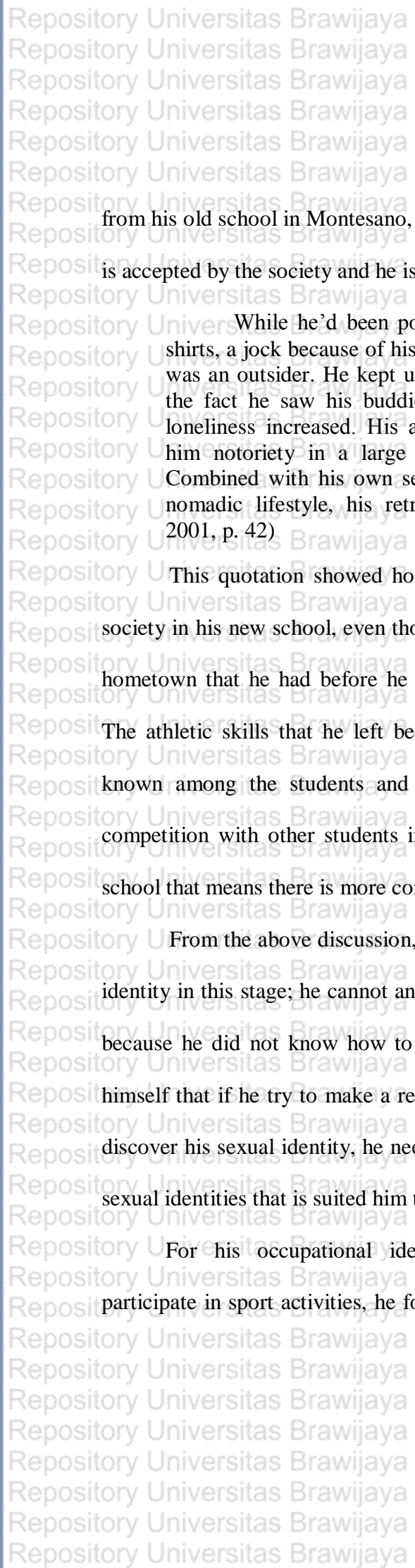
While he'd been popular in Monte – a preppy in his Izod shirts, a jock because of his involvement in sports – in Aberdeen he was an outsider. He kept up with his friends in Monte, but despite the fact he saw his buddies nearly every weekend, his sense of loneliness increased. His athletic skills weren't sufficient to gain him notoriety in a large school, so he dropped out of sports. Combined with his own self-doubt from his fractured family and nomadic lifestyle, his retreat from the world continued (Cross, 2001, p. 42)

This quotation showed how Kurt failed to build a relationship with his society in his new school, even though he is famous and have many friends in his hometown that he had before he transferred to Weatherwax High in Aberdeen.

The athletic skills that he left because he likes artistic more cannot make him known among the students and his athletic skill does not stand out in the competition with other students in the Weatherwax High, because it is a large school that means there is more competition than his old school.

From the above discussion, it can be seen that Kurt failed to get the sexual identity in this stage; he cannot and would not socialize with others in his society because he did not know how to build a relationship with others and he doubt himself that if he try to make a relationship with others it will failed, whereas to discover his sexual identity, he needs to socialize with others to know what is the sexual identities that is suited him the most.

For his occupational identity, despite his father encouragement to participate in sport activities, he found out in his adolescence that sport activities



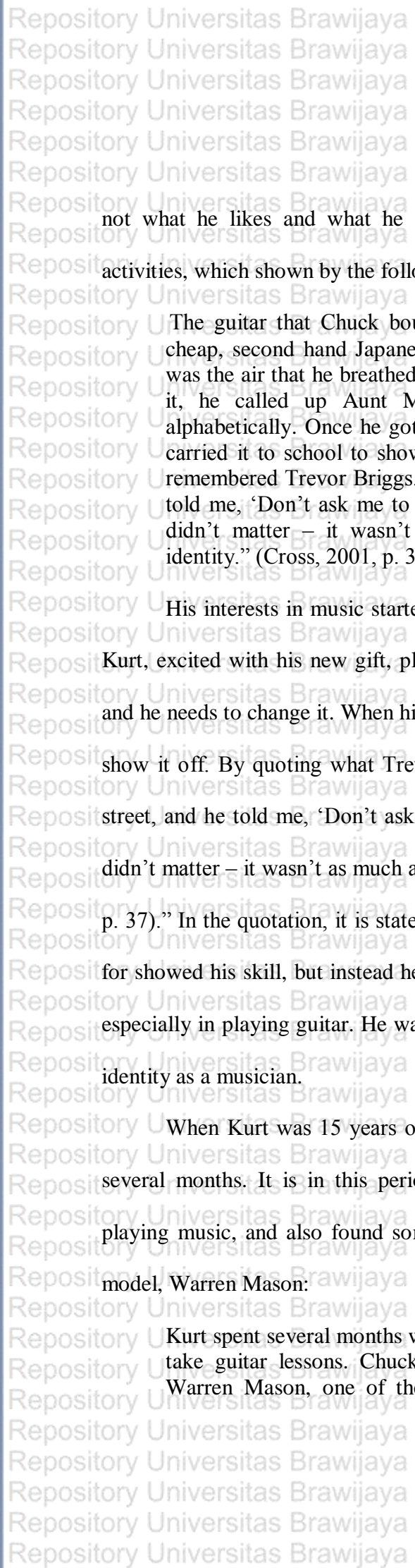
not what he likes and what he wants. His interests mostly spun around arts activities, which shown by the following quotation taken from the biography:

The guitar that Chuck bought him wasn't much better: It was a cheap, second hand Japanese model. It often broke, but to Kurt it was the air that he breathed. Not knowing how to put the strings on it, he called up Aunt Mari and asked her if it was strung alphabetically. Once he got it working, he played it constantly and carried it to school to show it off. 'Everyone asked him about it,' remembered Trevor Briggs. 'I saw him with it on the street, and he told me, 'Don't ask me to lay any song on this, it's broken.' That didn't matter – it wasn't as much an instrument as it was an identity.'" (Cross, 2001, p. 37).

His interests in music started when his uncle, Chuck, bought him a guitar. Kurt, excited with his new gift, played it frequently until its strings were broken and he needs to change it. When his guitar finally works, he brought it to school to show it off. By quoting what Trevor Briggs said, i.e. "I saw him with it on the street, and he told me, 'Don't ask me to lay any song on this, it's broken.' That didn't matter – it wasn't as much an instrument as it was an identity (Cross, 2001, p. 37)." In the quotation, it is stated that Kurt brought the guitar to the school not for showed his skill, but instead he wanted to show that he is interested in music, especially in playing guitar. He wanted people to know that he wanted to have an identity as a musician.

When Kurt was 15 years old, he moved to his Uncle's house, Chuck, for several months. It is in this period of time that he got the formal training in playing music, and also found someone that he can be looked up into as a role model, Warren Mason:

Kurt spent several months with his Uncle Chuck, where he began to take guitar lessons. Chuck was in a band with a fellow named Warren Mason, one of the hottest guitar players on the harbor.



Whenever they rehearsed in Chuck’s house – rehearsals that always included pot and a bottle of Jack Daniel’s – Kurt would watch from the corner, eyeing Warren like a starving man looking at a meatball sandwich. One day Chuck asked Warren if he’d instruct the boy, and so began Kurt’s formal training in music (Cross, 2001, p. 41).

Kurt always there when his uncle rehearse with his band because he wanted to see Warren Mason; the guitarist of his uncle’s band. He will stay in the corner of the rehearsal room and watch Warren intensely because he is everything that Kurt wanted to become: a musician that played guitar. Kurt sees Warren as the role that he always dreamed of. Besides Warren Mason, that he looked up as a role model for him, Kurt also found another adult that he can be looked up into: Bob Hunter, his art teacher.

There was at least one redeeming grace to his studies: Weatherwax had an excellent art program, and in this one class Kurt continued to excel. His teacher, Bob Hunter, found him an extraordinary student: He had both the ability to draw, coupled with a great imagination.” Hunter allowed his students to listen to the radio while they worked – he was an artist and musician himself – and encouraged them to be creative. To Kurt, he was the ideal teacher, and like Mr. Kanno before him, he proved to be one of the few adult role models the boy could look up to. (Cross, 2001, p. 42)

To conclude Kurt’s process to find his identity, it can be seen that Kurt successfully gained the occupational identity; he know and he already picturing himself as a musician and artist. For the sexual identity, he failed to acquired it in this stage because he does not have someone that he could asks and he could follows in making relationship with others. Therefore, it can be concluded that Kurt not yet acquired the virtue of fidelity, because he cannot found his sexual identity. The detailed explanation regarding to this subject will be given in the

Kurt Cobain's Psychological Virtues, Malignancies and Maladaptions' sub chapter.

### 3.1.6 Kurt Cobain's Sixth Stage

According to Santrock (2011), a person in this is expected to have a close relationship like a best friend or a romantic partner that indicate an intimate relationship. When a person can explore and build an intimate relationship with others, they will have a happy relationship and a sense of commitment, safety, with others outside their family. The goal of this stage is to acquire the virtue of love. Once a person failed to keep the intimacy relationship with others that he had and if they fear to have a commitment and relationships with others, it can result isolation, loneliness, and probably depression.

The first intimate relationship Kurt made in his young adult period is with Krist Novoselic. Krist is one of the founder members of Nirvana that still in the band with Kurt from the very first time they made the band. Their relationship become more and more intimate as the time goes, which stated in the quotation taken from Kurt's biography (Cross, 2001, p. 96) below:

Kurt and Krist had been friends for some time, but this second forming of the band would cement their relationship in deeper ways. Though neither was particularly good at talking about their emotions, they forged a brotherly bond that seemed stronger than all the other relationships in their lives.

Besides Novoselic, Kurt also found a new best friend that is the new drummer and the last drummer of Nirvana, Dave Grohl. Dave Grohl became the drummer of Nirvana when Chad Channing – the previous drummer – kicked out from the band in the middle of the recording of *Bleach* album.





Grohl then moved from his house to live in an apartment with Kurt and became in a relationship with Kathleen Hanna, one of Tobi Vail’s bandmates, and Tobi is Kurt’s girlfriend at that time. The presence of Grohl helps Kurt escapes from his loneliness and also helps him dealing with his nervousness with Tobi because Kurt and Dave frequently double their dates with Tobi and Kathleen, and it makes Kurt seen the hangout less serious than individual dating:

Grohl shared Kurt’s musical taste, but not his obsession with courting favor with legends. He was far more interested in girls, and they were interested in him. He began dating Kathleen Hanna of Bikini Kill – Dave and Kurt would then do the Olympia version of double dating with Kathleen and Tobi; they’d drink beer and make up lists of the most important punk rock records. Most of Dave and Kurt’s amusement were adolescent, but with Tobi and Kathleen around, everyone was more sociable. The situation made Kurt more attractive to Tobi, since the prospect of hanging out as a gang was less serious than individual dating. (Cross, 2001, p. 167)

Besides best friends, Kurt also successfully has intimate and romantic relationships with the opposite sex. His first girlfriend is Tracy Marander, whom he met in 1985, and then they met again in 1987, where they become a couple.

Kurt really appreciates and happy with Tracy as his girlfriend. He sees Tracy as someone that he adores much because of several features that Tracy had, like her involvement in punk rock scene which showed by the numbers of punk rock shows she went to, her knowledge about music and also her attractive appearance:

Tracy was the ideal girlfriend for the twenty-year-old Kurt, and she would signify a major marker in his path toward adulthood. She was year older than he was, had been to hundred of punk rock shows, and knew lots about music, a huge sexual turn-on to Kurt. With dark hair, a curvy body, and large eyes that were as strikingly brown as his were blue, she was a homespun beauty with a down-to-earth attitude. Everyone she met turned into a friend; in this way, and in many others, she couldn’t have been more different from



him. He was instantly taken with her, though from the beginning he never felt like he deserved her (Cross, 2001, p. 82).

Tracy also meant to Kurt as someone that could fulfill his need of the figure of a mother that he lost for a long time. Tracy took care many of his needs and give him the attention as like what a mother do to their child:

These inner thoughts, many times full of violence, were in marked contrast to Kurt’s external world. For the first time in his life he had a steady girlfriend who doted on him and saw to his every need. At times the attention Tracy paid him bordered on mothering, and in a way he needed mothering. He remarked to his friends that she was ‘the best girlfriend in the world.’ (Cross, 2001, p. 94).

After that, Kurt met a girl who attractively different with Tracy, Tobi Vail. The most things that Kurt find attractive from Tobi is how they shared the same musical interests. Even though he shared the same musical interests with Tobi and he feels good about it, Kurt struggled to situated himself with Tobi’s point of view towards relationship:

Yet despite their shared musical interests, Kurt had fallen for someone who could never love him the way Tracy had, and who, more important, would never need him. Tobi took a more casual view toward relationship that Kurt; she wasn’t looking for a husband, nor was she about to mother him. Boyfriends were more like fashion accessories for Tobi,” observed Alice Wheeler. What Kurt was searching for in a relationship was the kind of family intimacy he had lacked since early childhood; but Tobi rejected the traditional relationship he sought as sexist (Cross, 2001, p. 158).

Their relationship only lasted for six months. Tobi, in November 1990, told Kurt that she wanted to break up just when Kurt hoping that the intimacy of their relationship is just a feet away. This break up with Tobi probably affects Kurt’s personality state again since his parents divorces. It changes his view and behavior towards having a relationship with others that will be explained and

discussed in the next chapter; Kurt Cobain's psychological virtues, malignancies and maladaptions.

### 3.2 Kurt Cobain's Psychological Virtues, Malignancies and Maladaptions

This sub chapter will discuss about every outcomes showed by Kurt in Cobain his lifetime, including the outcomes that changes an outcome of a stage that he already acquired.

Erikson stated that he acknowledged that his theory is more of a descriptive overview of human social and emotional development that does not explain explicitly how or why this development happened. He wrote, "I came to psychology from art, which may explain, if not justify, the fact that at times the reader will find me painting contexts and backgrounds where he would rather have me point to facts and concepts." (Erikson, 1950, p. 13).

One of the questions that remain unanswered is how and why an outcome of the early stages that already acquired could change in the later stage. For example, if a child acquired a malignant outcome in the second stage, it can be changed to the positive outcome in the later stage. As what Schultz and Schultz (2005) stated in their book, *Theory of Personality*:

Erikson's theory allows for optimism because each stage of psychosocial growth, although centered on a crisis, offers the possibility of a positive outcome. We are capable of resolving each situation in a way that is adaptive and strengthening. Even if we fail at one stage and develop a maladaptive response or a basic weakness, there remains hope for change at a later stage.

From the quotation above, it can be understood that there is a probability for an outcome to change. Schultz & Schultz seen this probability of changing as a

chance to have a positive outcome; but in the other hand, the changing from the positive outcome to negative outcome could also happened.

Therefore, based on the explanation above, the writer will also present and discuss the quotation taken from the biography that showed the changes of an outcome of a stage in the stage where the changes is happened.

In this stage, the writer uses the data that is beyond the stage that discussed in each part as the evidence to support the analysis made by the writer. For example, when the writer discusses the outcome of the first stage, the writer will quote the quotation from the data outside the age range of the first stage (the age of 0-1) as the supporting data and it is not bounded by the stage of the data taken from.

This sub chapter will be divided into six parts: the first part will discuss about the outcome of the first stage, the second part will discuss about the outcome of the second stage, and goes on until the sixth stage; that will discuss the outcome of the sixth stage. If there is a change of the outcome of a stage, it will be discussed in the part where the changing of the outcome is happened.

**3.2.1 Kurt Cobain's Outcomes of The First Stage**

In accordance with the discussion about how Kurt passed his first stage of psychological development in the previous sub chapter, it is assumed that he passed the first stage and acquires the positive outcome of the first stage, the virtue of hope.



The writer only found one data from the biography written by Cross (2001) that showed how Kurt trust his parents but at the same time also showed that he did not overly trust his parents:

One summer evening the Herlings were at the Cobains' playing cards, when Don came into the living room and announced "I have a rat." Rats were common in Aberdeen because of the low elevation and abundance of water. Don began to fashion a crude spear by attaching a butcher knife to a broom handle. This drew the interest of five-year-old Kurt, who followed his father to the garage, where the rodent was in a trash can. Don told Kurt to stand back, but this was impossible for such curious child and the boy kept inching closer until he was holding his father's pants leg. The plan was for Rod Herling to lift the lid of the can, whereupon Don would use his spear to stab the rat. Herling lifted, Don threw the broomstick but missed the rat, and the spear stuck into the floor. As Don tried in vain to pull the broom out, the rat- at a calm and bemused pace- crawled up the broomstick, scurried over Don's shoulder and down to the ground, and ran over Kurt's feet as he exited the garage. It happened in a split second, but the combination of the looks on Don's face and the size of Kurt's eyes made everyone howl with laughter. They laughed for hours over this incident, and it would become a piece of family folklore: "Hey, do you remember that time Dad tried to spear the rat?" No one laughed harder than Kurt, but as a five-year-old he laughed at everything. It was a beautiful laugh, like the sound of a baby tickled, and it was a constant refrain. (Cross, 2001, p. 11)

In the above quotation, Kurt showed his trust to his parents – especially his father – by keep following his father to kill the rat even though his father already told him to stand back because his father know it might danger Kurt if he stand too close to him. Kurt ignored his father warning and kept coming closer to the rat until he was standing besides Don and holding into his trousers.

Kurt showed that he is trust his father by keeping coming closer even though his father already warned him to stand back. Kurt still coming forward

because he trusts Don that he will protecting him and help him if anything bad happened to him.

Kurt also showed how he does not overly trusted his father at the same event: When the rat escaped from the spear thrown by Don and crawled into the broomstick then to Kurt's body and finally exited the garage, Kurt did not upset nor angry to his father.

If Kurt overly trusted his father, he will be upset when the rat crawled over his body because it means that Don failed to protect Kurt from the rat. Kurt's responds for being crawled by the rat is laughing with his father, that showed how Kurt does not saw his father failure to kill the rat and let the rat crawled over his body as an act of not protecting him. Kurt already prepared himself to follow his father to kill the rat; he did not overly trusted his father that he will always protecting him all the time.

From the quotation and the discussion above, it can be seen that Kurt acquired the virtue of hope in his first stage. Later on, when he was 9 years old, he will lose his virtue of hope and it is substituted with the maladaptation outcome of the first stage: that he overly trusted his parents. The discussion regarding this event will be discussed in the Kurt's outcomes of the fourth stage sub chapter; the age range when his outcome of the first stage changes.

**3.2.2 Kurt's Outcomes of The Second Stage**

It is stated in the second part of the previous sub chapter, which discuss Kurt's second stage, that Kurt acquired the virtue of determination in this stage.



The quotation in the previous sub chapter's part showed how Kurt showed his autonomy and also his tolerance to others.

Apparently, Kurt still holds his virtue of determination after he move on from the second stage. The first quotation that showed that Kurt still maintained his autonomy is:

Kurt enjoyed making up his own lyrics, even as a toddler. When he was four upon his return from a trip to the park with Mari, he sat down at the piano and crafted a crude song about their adventure. 'We went to the park, we got candy,' went the lyrics. 'I was just amazed.' Recalled Mari. 'I should have plugged in the tape recorder- it was probably his first song.' (Cross, 2001, p. 11)

Besides showing Kurt's interest and creativity in music are developed in his very young age, this quotation also showed how Kurt exercising his autonomy.

Kurt making a song based on his adventure in a park with his aunt, Mari. He wrote the lyrics on his own, and then he makes the arrangement for his lyrics using a piano. Kurt did not asks for his Aunt's help him while he made up his song or when he uses the piano; he independently tried to make a song without any intervention from her. This quotation showed Kurt independency and self reliance – which are the indicators of the positive outcomes of the second stage – by trying to do something with his surroundings that he curious and interests for: making a song.

Kurt also showed his independency in the later age by making a short film about things that interesting to him:

In 1981, at fourteen, Kurt began to make his own short films, using his parents' Super-8 camera. One of his first productions was an elaborate Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* rip-off that showed aliens – played by figures Kurt sculpted with clay – landing in the Cobain backyard. He showed the alien film to James in a successful attempt to convince the younger boy that their house had been

invaded. Another film he made in 1982 shows a far darker side of his psyche: He titled it *Kurt Commits Bloody Suicide*, and in it, Kurt, playing to a camera held by James, pretends to cut his wrists with the edge of a torn-in-half pop can. The film is complete with special effects, fake blood, and Kurt dramatically playing out his own final death scene in a manner he must have seen in silent pictures. (Cross, 2001, p. 33)

In the quotation above, Kurt once more showed his interests and curiosity in making art by shot his own short films. In one of his first film, he prepared all of the production needed in his project; the camera to record the film, the figures of the aliens that he made from a clay, all by himself. It is showed how his self-reliance is practiced: he does all of the preparation to make the film by himself and he did not ask helps from others.

In another film that he made one year later in 1982, Kurt showed more of his ability and his confidence in making it. The film is entitled *Kurt Commits Bloody Suicide* and he had a role as the main and the only character in the movie. His changing of role from the cameraman to the actor that played his short film suggests that he have more confidence. Being an actor, he must have the courage and the confidence to play the role as himself – who commits suicide – in a dramatic but yet still realistic enough. In order to make his play of committing suicide more realistic, he creates a fake blood and he uses special effects to make his short film more dramatic.

His thought and acts of using fake blood and special effects to make his short film more interesting is proving his self-reliance: he knows that he had a problem and he know he needs to solve it. Even though Kurt asked his friend,





James, as the cameraman for recording this short movie, Kurt done most of the preparation needed for making the short film.

In this quotation about Kurt making a film, Kurt also showed his tolerance towards his friend, James, by inviting him to be the cameraman in his short film.

Despite his high spirit to do the film on his own, he understand that he cannot do everything by himself. He tolerate James, who undoubtedly also interested in participating in making a short film, to join him as the cameraman and also because he needs him to.

As the conclusion of this second part, it can be seen that Kurt is more likely acquired the positive outcome of this second stage because in his later age, he still showed his autonomy and self-reliance. Furthermore, this virtue of determination will help him in his sixth stage when he acquired the outcome of isolation. Since he have a great confidence and self-esteem, he did not mind it much because he used to do things on his own. The explanation about how this virtue of determination will support his sixth stage outcomes will be explained in the sixth stage's part of discussion.

**3.2.3 Kurt Cobain's Outcomes of The Third Stage**

In the last sub chapter, it is assumed that Kurt acquired the positive outcome of the third stage, the virtue of purpose, and Kurt only had this virtue of purpose just only for one year since he grew up from the range of the third stage, until he was sixth years old. The reason why he loses his virtue of purpose is because his parents were started their quarrel when he was six years old, which explained by the quotation below:



He was also sensitive to the increasing strain he saw between his parents. For the first years of Kurt's life, there wasn't much fighting in the home, but there also hadn't been evidence of great love affair. Like many couples who married young, Don and Wendy were two people overwhelmed by circumstance. Their children became the center of their lives, and what little romance had existed in the short time they'd had prior to their kids was hard to rekindle. The financial pressure daunted Don; Wendy was consumed by caring for the children. They began to argue more and to yell at each other in front of the children. "You have no idea how hard I work," Don screamed at Wendy, who echoed her husband's complaint. (Cross, 2001, p. 13)

In the quotation above, it is stated that Kurt was sensitive to his parents quarrel: 'He was also sensitive to the increasing strain he saw between his parents (Cross, 2001, p. 13).' Even though his parents still giving him the attention that he needs, Kurt felt that his parents losing the love they had once for each other. One of the quotations that taken from *Heavier Than Heaven* written by Cross in 2001 that showed how Kurt starting to lose his virtue of purpose is:

At times, like all children, Kurt was a terror. Most of his acting out incidents were minor the time – he'd write on the walls or slam the door or tease his sister. These behaviors frequently elicited a spanking, but Don's more common – and almost daily – physical punishment was to take two fingers and thump Kurt on the temple or the chest. It only hurt a little, but the psychological damage was deep – it made his son fear greater physical harm and it server to reinforce Don's dominance. Kurt began to retreat into the closet in his room the kinf or enclosed, confined spaces that would give others panic attacks were the very places he sought out as sanctuary (Cross, 2001, p. 17)

In the quotation above, Kurt shown his initiative by starting to interact with his surroundings, like write on the walls, slam the door or tease his sister. Seeing how Kurt's behave, which were seen as bad in his eyes, his father punished Kurt by thumping his two fingers in Kurt's temple or chest, sometimes spanking him. Kurt, who already thought that his parents are losing the love for each other,

began to feel that his father also lose his love for him. Kurt responded to his father punishment by retreated to the enclosed or narrow spaces like the closet of his room because he feels safe in there; no one will criticize him, especially his parents who he loved so much.

Now, with his doubt about his parents were starting not to love him, he started to ignore what his parents warned or told him:

Mari remembered visiting Cobain house and finding Kurt running around the neighborhood, banging on a marching drum and yelling at the top of his lungs. Mari went inside and asked her sister, “Just what on earth is he doing?” “I don’t know,” was Wendy’s reply. “I don’t know what to do to get him to stop – I’ve tried everything.” At the time, Wendy presumed it was Kurt’s ways of burning of his excess of boyish energy. (Cross, 2001, p. 20)

Even though Kurt already felt that his parents will punish him if he do something wrong, Kurt still exercising everything that he wanted to do. In the quotation above, when his Aunt, Mari, visiting the Cobain’s home he saw Kurt running around his neighborhood playing drum and shouting loudly. Intrigued and worried about Kurt’s behavior, she asked her sister and Kurt’s mother, Wendy, about what Kurt is doing. Wendy answered that she does not know what he is doing. Wendy told his aunt that she have tried to stop Kurt, but Kurt just ignored and rejected what his mother said to him.

Kurt’s act of resisting what his mother said showed how Kurt exercising his sociopath behavior. According to Erikson (1968), sociopath behavior is when a person is does not care or refusing what people told him to do or not to, or become selfish. Kurt’s showed that he does not care or wanted to follow and obey what his mother wanted, until she gave up.



As the conclusion of the above discussion about Kurt's outcome of the third stage, it can be assumed that Kurt loses his virtue of purpose when he was six years old, and the reason for his lost of the virtue of purpose is that he felt how his parent starting to loses their loves for each other, and he also misunderstood his father punishment as an act of not loving. He starts to forces what he wanted to do and ignores what the others think about him.

Later on, the sociopath outcome acquired in this stage will supports his isolation outcome in the sixth stage with his outcome of the second stage, the virtue of determination. The discussion regarding this matter will be discussed in the sixth part of this sub chapter.

### 3.2.4 Kurt's Outcomes of The Fourth Stage

In the end of the discussion that discuss Kurt's psychological development in the fourth stage in the previous sub chapter, it is stated that Kurt might acquire the virtue of competency if it is not because his parents' divorce. This sub chapter will discuss why his parents' divorce matters in deciding what outcome that he will get in this stage. The researcher also found that in this stage, Kurt also lost one of the positive outcomes he acquired in the previous stages, which also related to why he get the negative outcome in this stage.

In this stage, a child will try to do things on their own and they also have the interest to acquire skills that they liked. Different from the third stage of Erikson's (1968) human psychological development which a child will do something just because they are interest and curious about it, a child doing things because they already know what they likes to do and what skills that they wanted



to acquire in this stage. They also wanted to people around them to appreciate and give them the approval for their demonstration of skills they interested in.

It is already stated in the previous sub chapter that discussed how Kurt passes his fourth stage that he failed to acquire the positive outcome of this stage, which is the virtue of competency. Even though he successfully finding the skills and the activities that he likes to do, the art-related activities, and get the approvals for it, he still failed to acquire the positive outcome of this stage.

He failed to acquire the positive outcome of this stage because of his parents' divorce. In the previous discussion about the outcome of his first stage, it is stated that he get the virtue of hope. But in this stage, his outcome of his first stage is changes to one of the negative outcomes of the first stage, maladaption.

The maladaption outcome of the first stage is when a child is overly trusting his parents.

In this stage, when his parents divorce, Kurt was really shocked and loses his virtue of hope because of it. This divorce makes Kurt loses his virtue of hope because he trust his parents too much. One of the evidence that showed how Kurt trusts his parents too much is given below:

'He thought it was his fault, and he shouldered much of the blame,' observed Mari. 'It was traumatic for Kurt, as he saw everything he trusted in – his security, family, and his own maintenance – unravel in front of his eyes.' (Cross, 2001, p. 22)

Kurt felt that it was his fault that his parents' divorce and he also felt that he responsible for it. He felt that he failed to keep his parents to be together. Kurt felt failed and responsible because he is overly trusted his parents; if he did not trusts his parents that much, the effect of his parents' divorce for him will not be



that bad. He will understand that he is not the one that bears the responsible for his parents' divorce.

Besides he felt that he is the one that should be blamed for his parents' divorce, he also turns himself inward to keep his own grief. This event marked the point when he starting to isolate himself from his surroundings - starting from his own family - which proved by the quotation below:

To Kurt, it was an emotional holocaust – no other single event in his life had more of an effect on the shaping of his personality. He internalized the divorce, as many children do. The depth of his parents' conflicts had been primarily hidden from him, and he couldn't understand the reason for the split. (Cross, 2001, p. 22)

Even when Kurt expressed his grief and disappointment toward his parents, he expressed it with an indirect and inappropriate way: he wrote on his bedroom wall how he sees his parents hating each other and how he felt sad because of it. He writes "I hate mom, I hate Dad. Dad hates Mom, Mom hates Dad." (Cross, 2001, p. 22)

Another quotation that showed how Kurt loses his virtue of hope is when his father remarried with a woman named Jenny, two years after his parents' divorce (Cross, 2001, p. 25). This quotation supported how Kurt loses his virtue of hope is shown when his father remarried again with a woman called Jenny. At first, he can accept his new mother, Jenny Cobain, because he gets the attention he loses since the divorce: the attention of a mother, but it did not last long. Kurt, because of his trust to his family that is very high, arrived in the thought that he will betrayed his nuclear or his real family if he accepts and cares Jenny as his new mother. His thoughts about the divorce as a temporary setback before his



parents regroup or remarried again also showed how he trusts his parents too much, because he still hoping that his parents will be back together, and will give him the love and the care that he longed for.

His thoughts about accepting and rejecting Jenny as his new mother also showed that he doubts his capability to trust somebody. His capability of trusting someone new is crunched because of his parents' divorce. When he faced with a situation where he can changes his father's decision of remarry with Jenny, Kurt only asked his father about why he remarried because his father once said to him that he will not remarried. Kurt did not say anything that will change the condition of the remarriage of his father, he simply just asked the reason behind it and get along with it. This act shows Kurt's inferiority towards his father: He gave up easily in confronting his father about his decision of remarried, even though he still had a chance to change his father's mind.

Inferiority, according to Boeree (2006), is marked by an act of giving up easily, which performed by Kurt when he had the chance to persuade his father to undo his marriage. Despite his success in exploring the skills that he wanted to have and got the approval for it, his feeling of failure to keep his family – which he sees as one of the competency that he need to have because of his trust for his parents is too much that it makes him does not wanted to lose his family – showed how he acquired the negative outcome of this stage, because it affects his psychological development greater than his success in exploring skill as his competency and getting an approval for it.



From the discussion above, it is clear that Kurt loses his positive outcome of the first stage because of his parents' divorce that can be seen by looking into Kurt's responds when his parents' divorce, his feeling of guilty and his thought of failure to maintain his parents to be together as the expression of his high trust towards his parents. It is also clear how he get the malignant outcome of this stage, inferiority. Later on, his inferiority will also support the process of acquiring the outcomes of the fifth stage. The discussion regarding this statement will be explained in the next part, Kurt's outcomes of the fifth stage.

**3.2.5 Kurt Cobain's Outcomes of The Fifth Stage**

In the previous sub chapter that discussed how Kurt passes his fifth stage of Erikson's psychological development, it is concluded that Kurt successfully acquires his occupational identity, but failed in acquiring his sexual identity. Erikson (1968) stated that a person will acquired two different identity in this stage, which are occupational identity and sexual identity. These two identities will merged into one identity of a person in the society. A person who successfully acquired and know their identity, they will able to position themselves in society and know what they wanted to become. If they failure to know their identity, they will suffer what Erikson called as role confusion or identity crisis, a condition when someone does not know where does they belong in the society and what they are going to do in the society.

The divorce of his parents also affects Kurt's failure to discover his sexual identity because did not have someone that he could look into for making his sexual identity. His difficulty in socializing with others also make it more difficult





for him to discover his sexual identity, because in order to obtain the sexual identity that fit to himself, he needs to interact with others and then deciding what are the sexual identity that fits him the most (manhood or womanhood).

His failure in discovering his sexual identity in this stage also proved that he had the negative outcomes of this stage. According to Erikson (1968), a human will get positive outcomes of this stage when they successfully discovered their own identity that is the result of the combination between occupational and sexual identity.

To know whether Kurt founded his identity or not, the writer will give the quotations taken from Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain (2001), as the evidences about Kurt that he did not discover his sexual identity and he only get to discover his occupational identity.

The quotation that showed how Kurt failed to discover his sexual identity that the writer finds in the biography of Kurt Cobain written by Cross (2001) is located in the page 82:

They bonded over rodents – both Kurt and Tracy had pet rats. He had first met her two years earlier outside a punk club in Seattle – it was the location of one of his alcohol arrests. He and Buzz were drinking in a car when Tracy came by to say hi, and Kurt was so enraptured he failed to notice a police car pulling up, They ran into each other over the next year, and in early 1987 they cemented a relationship. “I had been flirting with him for quite a while,” Tracy said. “I think he had hard time believing a girl actually liked him.” (Cross, 2001, p. 82)

The above quotation showed how Kurt met Tracy and how they become a couple in early 1987. This quotation showed that Kurt, eventually, found his

sexual identity in the age of 20, just one year after he passed the age range of the fifth stage, which is from age 13 until 19.

It can be concluded that Kurt failed to discover his sexual identity in the fifth stage because he cannot discover that the human sexual qualities – sexual feelings, attractions, behaviors – that is more suitable for him. He discover his sexual identity when he met Tracy Marander and he involved in a relationship with her.

Meanwhile, for his occupational identity, he still maintained to had his occupational identity as an musician and artist until he become romantically involved with Courtney Love, and become engaged with her, which is showed in the quotation taken from Cross’ biography of Kurt Cobain page 228. In this quotation, Kurt stated in an interview how he started to lose his interest in his career because he was blinded with his love with Courtney. He also showed that (Cross, 2001, p. 228) he did not wanted to be in the band anymore, but he cannot do it because he was under contract.

Therefore, it is clear that Kurt acquired and maintained his occupational identity in the fifth stage until he loses the interest to keep it up after he was romantically involved and engaged with Courtney Love when he was 24 years old. While for his sexual identity, he did not discovered it in the period of the fifth stage, which are shown by how he involved in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship with Tracy Marander when he was 20 years old; one year after the age limit of the fifth stage, the age of 19.



According to Boeree (2006), the positive outcome of this stage is when a person can understand others position and role in the society and also understand their own position and role in the society. The negative outcome of this stage is identity crisis, and it is marked by repudiation as the malignancies outcome and fanaticism as the maladaptive outcomes.

Repudiation is when a person confused in making a stand about what they wanted to do, and fanaticism is when a person believe what they do is the right ones and better than anyone else. In this stage, Kurt showed behaviors that more related to the maladaptation outcome of this stage, fanaticism. In this stage, there are several evidences that show how Kurt forcing everyone to accept what he wanted to do and rejected what people told him. There are two quotation from Kurt's biography (Cross, 2001) that showed Kurt's fanaticism behavior. The first quotation (Cross, 2001, p. 36) that showed Kurt's fanaticism behavior is when his father and step-mother had tried to bring him back to the family but Kurt, who hurt so much and already lost hope in his family, rejected their efforts and decided to abandon his family. He did not wanted to do his chores and responsibilities, even when they threaten him that his allowance will be subtracted if he did not do his chores, he still do not want to do the chores. His step-mother also said how Kurt become more introvert and have fewer friends because he rarely went out and stay at home in his room. It is clear how Kurt showed his fanaticism towards what he wanted to do by not doing chores and still not doing it after he had been threaten by his father and step-mother that his allowance will be subtracted.



Another quotation from his biography written by Cross (2001) that showed his fanaticism is:

As his teenage years began, he constantly tested his limits, and with so many different parental figures – and none with ultimate authority over him – he eventually wore out his elders. His family painted a picture of a stubborn and obstinate boy who wasn't interested in listening to any adults or working. Petulance appeared to be an essential part of his nature, as did laziness, in contrast to everyone else in his family – even his younger sister Kim had helped pay the bills with her paper route. "Kurt *was* lazy," recalled his uncle Jim Cobain. "Whether it was simply because he was a typical teenager or because he was depressed, no one knew." (Cross, 2001, p. 40)

The above quotation told how bad Kurt's behavior towards himself and towards others that is older than him. He often rejects and ignores what his elders told him to until they give up told him to do the something or to do a right thing. His family sees him as a stubborn and persistent boy who does not care about what his elders told him and also he does not have an interest in doing anything.

Kurt's uncle, Jim Cobain, also expressed (Cross, 2001, p. 40) his confusion towards what happened to Kurt. He cannot tell whether Kurt refusing to do anything that the adults told him because it is normal for a teenager to be like that or it is because of his depression. In this quotation, his uncle seems like surprised with Kurt's rebellious attitude. He expresses his surprise by telling that he confused whether Kurt's rebellious attitude is normal or not.

From the above discussions about Kurt's failure to discover his sexual identity his stubborn and obstinate behaviors, it can be concluded that he acquired the negative maladaptation outcome of this stage, fanaticism. He does not know how to socialize with someone new because he does not have a role model that he



could trust and the perspective towards socialization that he could imitate. He also showed his stubbornness in rejecting what adults told him to do and forced what he wanted to do without any consideration about what other thinks about him.

### 3.2.6 Kurt's Outcomes of The Sixth Stage

In the sixth stage of Erikson's human psychological development, a person is expected to have intimate relationship with others, whether it is a strong relationship with friends, or a romantic relationship with an opposite sex. If someone successfully build an intimate relationship with others in this stage, they will get the virtue of love, the positive outcome of this stage. Virtue of love is when someone has an intimate relationship with others, but still maintained a distance from them (Boeree, 2006).

The malignant outcome of this stage is exclusion and the maladaptive outcome of this stage is promiscuity. Exclusion is when someone isolates themselves from love, friendship, society, and develops hatefulness in their loneliness. Promiscuity is when someone freely builds an intimate relationship with others but inward, they do not feel that intimate with their partners.

In the previous sub chapter, it is stated that Kurt's break up with Tobi Vail probably affects his personality again since his parents divorce and it changed his view and behavior towards making a relationship with others. There are two quotation in Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain (2001) that showed how bad the effect of the break up for Kurt. The first quotation is:

But that idea, and all of other fantasies he had for the future, went out of the window during the first week of November, when Tobi broke up with him. He was devastated; when she told him the news,



he was barely able to stand up. He'd never been dumped, and he took it badly. He and Tobi had gone out for less than six months. It had been casual dating, casual sex, and a casual romance, but through it all he hoped deeper intimacy was just around the corner. He fell back on his old pattern of internalizing his abandonment, and back into self-hatred. She didn't leave him because she was young; she left him, he imagined, because he didn't deserve her. He was so nauseated that, helping Slim move a week later, he had to stop the car to throw up (Cross, 2001, p. 168)

The quotation taken from Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain (2001) above showed how Kurt heavily shaken by the break up. When Tobi told him that she wanted to break up, he already develop a hope that their relationship will be more intimate than before; he had started to trust Tobi as someone that will be there for him.

After the break up, Kurt started to turn himself inward, kept his loneliness for himself and also started to develop the self-hatred inside him like when his parents divorced. He thought that Tobi left him because she knows that Kurt did not deserve him. His internalization because of the break up is the beginning of his isolation towards the world.

Another evidence from Cross' *Heavier Than Heaven* (2001) that showed how Kurt responded to his break up with Tobi is given below:

In the wake of the breakup, Kurt became more sullen than ever. He filled an entire notebook with stream-of-consciousness ranting, much of it violent and distressed. He used writing, music, and artwork to express his despair, and with his pain, he wrote songs. Some of them were crazy and angry songs, but they represented yet another level of his craft, since the anger was no longer clichéd and now had an authenticity his early work lacked. These new songs were filled with rage, remorse, pleading, and utter desperation. In the four months following their breakup, Kurt would write a half dozen of his most memorable songs, all of them about Tobi Vail (Cross, 2001, p. 168)

In this above quotation, it is showed how Kurt expressed his disappointment and pain through arts by turn it into a song lyrics, artworks and music. He makes new songs with the theme that did not stray far from rage, remorse, pleading, or desperation theme. This showed how hurt he is because of the break up.

His isolation because of the break up is also worsen by the moved of his best friend and band mate, Dave Grohl, from the apartment they lived together.

The quotation that showed how Kurt's conditions worsen than before in his biography written by Cross (2001) is given below:

In July Grohl moved to West Seattle; Kurt was alone again and retreating even more from the world, if that were possible. He no longer limited his drug binges to one night a week – if he could afford heroin and find it, he'd do drug all weekend and nod out by himself in the apartment. He wrote in his journal less, he practiced guitar less, and he escaped from the world more (Cross, 2001, p. 191)

Kurt started to seek anything that can help him ran away from the world; he started to do drugs regularly. Kurt also become more and more unproductive because of his isolation, he keeps inside what he felt, he did not write in his journal often, he left his band more, and he spent his time just by himself by consuming drugs whenever he could.

Another evidence that the writer found in the biography of Kurt Cobain written by Cross (2001) Is in the second paragraph of page 199. The paragraph is told a story about Kurt and his band members in Nirvana was starting to get famous and known by the world and in this paragraph, Kurt showed his first act of denial and isolation from the world. On one of the day in the second week of



September, 1991, Kurt along with his band members, Grohl and Novoselic, will have a series of radio interviews in Seattle’s biggest radios. At first, he liked the interviews, but after several sessions, he becomes bored and tired of doing interviews. In one of the interview, rather than spoke the question asked by the radio interviewer, Kurt keeps silent and do not speak anything. He expressed some kind of boredom in experiencing the interview by throwing pizzas towards the control room in front of him. After that interview, Nirvana had two more interviews to do and Kurt decided to not go to the radio buildings and choose to stay in the car. From this event, it can be seen how Kurt tried to isolates himself from the world and from his popularity.

One of his band members, Krist Novoselic, also stated in Cross’ biography how Kurt changed and withdrew himself after one of Nirvana free show - when Kurt realize that he is famous at that time – and how it also changes their band:

Krist would recall this particular show – a free show in a record store a week before the album’s official release date – as a turning point in Kurt. “Things started to happen after that,” Krist said. “We weren’t the same old band. Kurt, he just kind of withdrew. There was a lot of personal stuff that was going on. It got complicated. It was more that we bargained for.” (Cross, 2001, p. 202)

Kurt isolation from the world he living on becomes much worse when he met Courtney Love in October 1991, who later will be his wife when they married in February, 1992. When Kurt met and talk with Courtney for the very first time, he felt that he met someone who could understand what he had gone through. The evidence from Cross’ biography of Kurt (2001) that showed when they met is given below:





Ironically, Kurt’s confidantes thought he was slumming to become involved with her; Courtney’s friends felt the same about her dating him. The individual stories had a familiar feel, and when Courtney described a childhood that included neglect, being shuttled between divorced parents, and struggles in school, it was a terrain Kurt knew. She was the first woman he’d ever met that when he told her the stories of his youth – mythologized at this point beyond simple exaggeration – she responded by saying, “I can top that.” It became almost a game of “Who had the worst childhood?” but in their union Kurt felt a normalcy about his life. (Cross, 2001, p. 207)

Kurt is easily attracted to Courtney because both of them had experiencing childhood that is quite the same; the childhood that includes neglect, being thrown between divorced parents, and struggles in school. Kurt felt Courtney is someone that could understand him and also made him feel that what he had been through is normal because Courtney also suffers the experiences that are not that different from his.

Kurt becomes more and more attracted by Courtney and his relationship become more intimate than before. In one of the interview he had done in 1991, which also quoted in Cross’ biography of him (Cross, 2001, p. 222), Kurt stated his plan to get married to Courtney because it will give him a feeling of secure and happy. Below is Kurt’s statement of feeling secure and happy regarding his marriage with Courtney Love:

“I’m getting married, and that’s a total revelation-emotionally, that is. I’ve never felt so secure in my life, and so happy. It’s like I have no inhibitions anymore. It’s like I’m drained of feeling really insecure. I guess getting married has a lot to do with security and keeping your mind straight. My future wife’s and my personalities are so volatile that I think if we were to get into a fight, we’d split just like that. Getting married is an extra bit of security.” (Cross, 2001, p. 222)



Kurt, who for a long time never had someone that could understand and take care of him, planned to marry Courtney because he had seen a hope to have something that he lost when his parents divorced: A family. His plan to marry Courtney implies that he trust his relationship with Courtney so much that he thought a marriage will secured his relationship with Courtney. They were married in February 24, 1992.

Even though it is good for his relationship with Courtney, this marriage also brought negative effect for those around him, except Courtney: he completely isolates himself with Courtney and abandon his world altogether. This behavior of isolation is not only supported by the feeling of rejection and loneliness he felt in this stage, but also supported by three outcomes of the previous stages: sociopathy and fanaticism.

Sociopath is the behavior of abandoning what happened to others without felt any guilt when what they do is affecting others. Kurt showed his sociopath behavior when he decided to turn himself in and focused himself in spending time only with Courtney and left everything that he should do:

It was hard enough to convince Kurt to do a sound check or comb his hair, much less get him to listen to advice regarding his private affairs. Kurt and Courtney moved to a different hotel from the rest of the entourage; they were only a few blocks away, but the action would serve as a metaphor for a growing divisiveness inside the band. "By that time," Carrie recalled, "there had already been a separation within the Nirvana camp between the 'good' people, and the 'bad' people. Kurt, Courtney, and myself were the bad people. We had this feeling of not being welcomed, and it got more negative." (Cross, 2001, p. 224)

In the quotation taken from Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain above, it is clear that Kurt showed his sociopath behavior by not listening to others about



things that he should do and his decision to moved to the different hotel from the people in Nirvana, it showed how he does not care and does not want to know what happened to his band anymore.

For his fanaticism, Kurt often insisted what he wanted to do and also forced what he thought of is the right ones and others opinion is wrong. The evidence how he insisted his will is the right one is when he married, he did not invite his family, Krist Novoselic and his girlfriend and also some members of

Nirvana crew, which is shown in the quotation taken from Cross' biography about Kurt Cobain (2001) below:

But of more significance were those missing: Kurt hadn't invited his family (nor had Courtney), and Krist and Shelli were noticeably absent. The morning of the wedding, Kurt had banned Shelli and a few crew members because he felt they were gossiping about Courtney – the effect of this edict was to also uninvite Krist. "Kurt was changing," recalled Shelli. That month, Kurt had told Krist, "I don't want to even see Shelli, because when I look at her, I feel bad about what I'm doing." Shelli's analysis of this: "I think looking at me was like looking at him conscience." (Cross, 2001, p. 234)

His reason for doing so is because he felt that those who he did not invited, especially those of Nirvana, are gossiping about Courtney. Kurt also told Krist that he does not wanted to see Shelli, Krist's girlfriend, because he feel guilty about what he is doing. This act of not inviting his close relation and how he told Krist that he does not wanted to see Shelli anymore, showed how he believes that his decision and thoughts are the ones that should be fulfilled and followed.

Later on, his isolation becomes deeper than ever. Even he started to isolates himself from Courtney, who he trusts that she will bring him a feeling of



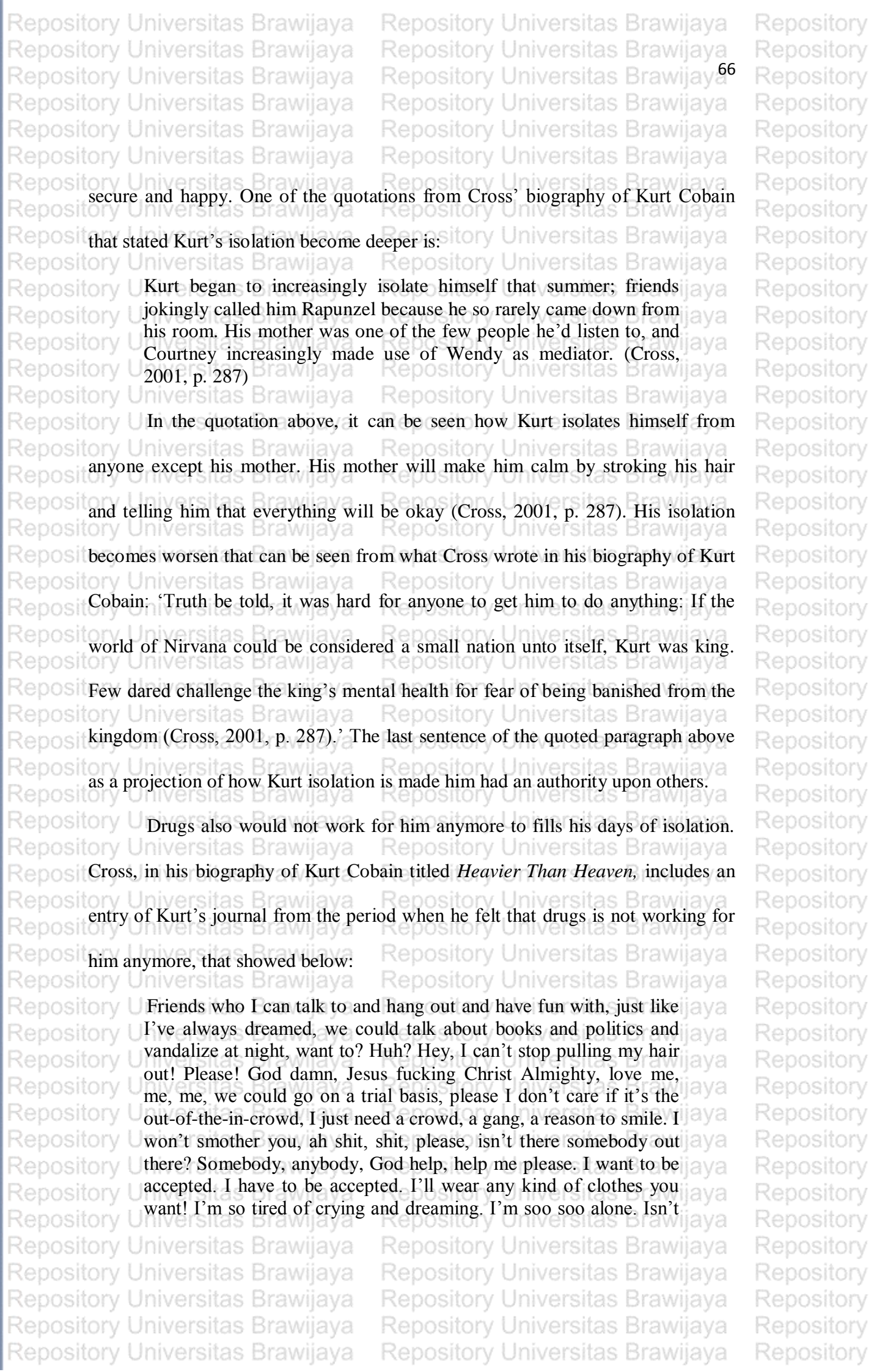
secure and happy. One of the quotations from Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain that stated Kurt's isolation become deeper is:

Kurt began to increasingly isolate himself that summer; friends jokingly called him Rapunzel because he so rarely came down from his room. His mother was one of the few people he'd listen to, and Courtney increasingly made use of Wendy as mediator. (Cross, 2001, p. 287)

In the quotation above, it can be seen how Kurt isolates himself from anyone except his mother. His mother will make him calm by stroking his hair and telling him that everything will be okay (Cross, 2001, p. 287). His isolation becomes worsen that can be seen from what Cross wrote in his biography of Kurt Cobain: 'Truth be told, it was hard for anyone to get him to do anything: If the world of Nirvana could be considered a small nation unto itself, Kurt was king. Few dared challenge the king's mental health for fear of being banished from the kingdom (Cross, 2001, p. 287).' The last sentence of the quoted paragraph above as a projection of how Kurt isolation is made him had an authority upon others.

Drugs also would not work for him anymore to fills his days of isolation. Cross, in his biography of Kurt Cobain titled *Heavier Than Heaven*, includes an entry of Kurt's journal from the period when he felt that drugs is not working for him anymore, that showed below:

Friends who I can talk to and hang out and have fun with, just like I've always dreamed, we could talk about books and politics and vandalize at night, want to? Huh? Hey, I can't stop pulling my hair out! Please! God damn, Jesus fucking Christ Almighty, love me, me, me, we could go on a trial basis, please I don't care if it's the out-of-the-in-crowd, I just need a crowd, a gang, a reason to smile. I won't smother you, ah shit, shit, please, isn't there somebody out there? Somebody, anybody, God help, help me please. I want to be accepted. I have to be accepted. I'll wear any kind of clothes you want! I'm so tired of crying and dreaming. I'm soo soo alone. Isn't





there anyone out there? Please help me. HELP ME! (Cross, 2001, p. 294)

The above quotation that taken from Cross' biography of Kurt Cobain (2001) that quoted from an entry of Kurt's journal, showed how Kurt felt lonely and desperately needs someone that will accompany him doing things and could accepted him. He even wrote "I'll wear any kind of clothes you want! I'm so tired of crying and dreaming (Cross, 2001, p. 294)." in his journal entry quoted above to show how desperate he is with his condition.

Despite the entry of his journal that showed in the above quotation, Kurt still isolates himself from the world. When his family and close friends try to bring him out of his sadness and isolation, he rejected them and asked them to leave him alone and when everybody left him, he went out to his dealer's house and asked her "Where are my friends when I need them? Why are my friends against me?" (Cross, 2001, p. 335).

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that Kurt developed a malignant outcome of this stage: exclusion. He excludes himself from anything that he had in his life and he also develop hate for himself and his closest relations in his loneliness.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the writer will show the result of the findings and discussion in the previous chapter. The writer will also deliver the suggestions for the next researchers.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Kurt Cobain's psychological aspects developed accordingly to Erikson's psychological development. The researcher finds that Kurt did not miss any stages, but with that being said, Kurt did not reach the seventh and eight stages of Erikson psychological development because he commits suicide when he was in the sixth stage.

Every data taken and analyzed in this study did not show any outcomes that are different with Erikson's outcomes of human psychological development. The researcher finds that Kurt Cobain acquired two positive outcomes and fourth negative outcomes as the results of his psychological development.

For Boeree's outcomes of human psychological development, the analysis done by the researcher showed that Kurt acquired the virtue of hope as the positive outcome of the first stage and he acquired the virtue of determination which is the positive outcome of the second stage. Later on, when his parents divorce, Kurt loses his virtue of hope and it is changed with one of the negative outcomes of the first stage, maladaptation. The maladaptation outcome of the first stage is when a child trusts his parents too much.

For the negative outcomes, respectively, he got them in the third stage, fourth stage, fifth stage, and sixth stage. The negative outcome Kurt acquired in the third stage is the maladaptation outcome, which is sociopathy. He acquired the malignant outcome in the fourth stage, which is inferiority. In the fifth stage, he acquired fanaticism, which is one of the negative outcomes of the stage. While in the sixth stage, he also acquired the negative outcome, which is exclusion.

By looking into the the analysis in previous chapter, Kurt acquired one positive outcome and five negative outcome. Even though he acquired the first positive outcome of the stages, which is virtue of hope, it does not guarantee that he will have a positive psychological development.

The reason why he got more negative outcomes than the positive ones is because was shocked when he knows that his parents are divorced. Before his parents divorced when he was in the fourth stage, he had the positive psychological development. He acquired the positive outcomes of the first three stages, which are the virtue of hope, virtue of determination, and virtue of purpose. However, he loses his virtue of purpose and changed to the negative outcome of the third stage, which is sociopathy, when he was six years old because he knew that his parents are simultaneously losing their loves to each other.

So, the writer conclude that Kurt Cobain have a negative psychological development in his life, with only one positive outcomes and five negative outcomes. It also can be inferred that this negative development might trigger him to commits suicide.





#### 4.2 Suggestion

Since the writer only discusses the psychological development of Kurt Cobain, the writer cannot discover whether his decisions he made in his life is related to the outcomes of the psychological development he acquired. One of the major decisions he made in his life is when he decided to commits suicide at the peak of his popularity and in a young age. Therefore, the writer suggest the next researchers to analyze whether this negative outcomes of Erikson's psychological development affect his decision to commits suicide by using Thomas Joiner's interpersonal theory of suicide.





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## Appendix: Berita Acara Bimbingan Skripsi

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in Charles R. Cross' Heavier Than Heaven
6. Tanggal Mengajukan : 27/9/2016
7. Tanggal Selesai Revisi : 26/07/2017
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No.	Tanggal	Materi	Pembimbing	Paraf
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2.	4/10/2016	Pengumpulan Outline Proposal	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
3.	7/10/2016	Konsultasi Outline Proposal	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
4.	8/10/2016	Pengumpulan Revisi Outline Proposal	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
5.	8/10/2016	ACC Outline Proposal	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
6.	11/10/2016	Penyerahan Bab 1	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
7.	17/10/2016	Konsultasi Bab 1	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
8.	19/10/2016	Penyerahan Revisi Bab 1	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
9.	26/10/2016	Konsultasi Bab 1	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
10.	2/11/2016	Penyerahan Bab 2	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
11.	9/11/2016	Konsultasi Bab 2	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
12.	12/11/2016	Penyerahan Revisi Bab 2	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
13.	14/11/2016	Konsultasi Bab 2	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
14.	16/11/2016	Penyerahan Revisi Bab 2	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
15.	15/11/2016	ACC Seminar Proposal	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB



16.	25/11/2016	Seminar Proposal	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
17.	28/11/2016	Penyerahan Outline Bab 3	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
18.	30/11/2016	Konsultasi Outline Bab 3	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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21.	12/12/2016	Konsultasi Bab 3	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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29.	22/4/2017	Konsultasi Bab 3	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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31.	21/5/2017	Konsultasi Bab 4	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
32.	25/5/2017	Penyerahan Revisi Bab 4	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
33.	1/6/2017	Konsultasi Bab 4	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
34.	6/6/2017	Penyerahan Revisi Bab 3 & 4	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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36.	6/6/2017	Acc. Seminar Hasil	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
37.	12/6/2017	Seminar Hasil	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
38.	6/7/2017	Penyerahan Revisi Seminar Hasil	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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40.	11/7/2017	Acc. Ujian Skripsi	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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42.	17/7/2017	Konsultasi Revisi Ujian Skripsi	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
43.	19/7/2017	Penyerahan Revisi Ujian Skripsi	Sri Utami Budi, S.S., M.A.	SB
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B+

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