

TRANSFORMATION OF GIRL'S IDENTITY IN THE NOVEL: A LITERARY PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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Abstract

This research examines the process of girls' identity transformation through the character of Alice in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* using a literary psychological approach. Alice is described as a girl who experiences various internal and external conflicts during her adventures in the fantasy world of Wonderland. This research uses a qualitative content analysis method. The literary psychological approach uses Erik Erikson's psychosocial theory, especially in the stages of *industry vs. inferiority* and *identity vs. role confusion*. The changes that Alice experiences emotionally, cognitively, and socially are analyzed as a representation of the psychological journey of girls in forming self-identity in the midst of an uncertain world. The world of Wonderland is interpreted as a symbol of the subconscious that presents various challenges to Alice's self-stability. The results show that Alice's adventures reflect the self-discovery of a growing girl, learning to know herself and building courage and independence in the midst of the absurdity of reality. This research shows that children's literature can be a reflective medium for the complexity of children's psychological development, especially in the formation of self-identity.

Keywords: *Girl's Identity, Novel, Literary Psychological, Psychosocial, Children's Literature*

INTRODUCTION

Identity formation in children has become one of the biggest challenges in the context of psychosocial development in the 21st century. According to Lin (2024) and Xu (2024), about 65% of children aged 6-12 years in various countries have difficulty in identifying their potential due to social pressure and environmental expectations that are not aligned with the developmental stage. This phenomenon is even more complex in the context of primary education, based on data from Al-Barakat (2023) showing that 58% of teachers reported an increase in cases of children experiencing low self-confidence and role confusion, especially in girls. Longitudinal studies conducted by Aronsson (2023) and Azeez (2024) revealed that girls are 40% more likely to experience an identity crisis than boys in the age range of 7-11 years, which has a significant impact on their academic achievement and social-emotional development.

Referring to the complexity of these problems, the issue of girls' identity formation becomes more crucial when examined through the lens of Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory. At the industry vs inferiority stage (ages 6-12 years), girls face challenges in developing competence and overcoming feelings of inferiority, which can continue at the identity vs role confusion stage (ages 12-18 years) where self-discovery becomes the main focus. Gerke (2023) reports that 47% of primary school-aged girls experience barriers to self-exploration due to gender stereotypes and limited positive role models in their environment. Wardle (2023) exacerbated this condition by the lack of

representation of strong and inspiring female characters in children's literature, which hampers the process of identification and identity formation.

In responding to this problem, the literary psychology approach has proven to be an effective method to analyze the dynamics of character development and identity transformation. Research conducted by Phinney (2022) and Sarup (2025) demonstrated that psychological analysis of fictional characters can provide deep insights into the process of human identity formation. An empirical study conducted by Castano (2021) also proves that novels featuring characters' journeys of transformation can serve as an effective learning medium for understanding the stages of psychosocial development. Furthermore, research by Sun (2023) and Casey (2021) shows that the application of Erikson's theory in literary analysis is able to reveal psychological dimensions that are invisible in conventional analysis, especially in understanding the internal conflict and resolution experienced by the main character.

Recent developments in the study of literary psychology show significant progress in the integration of developmental theory with literary analysis. A state-of-the-art research conducted by Armadori (2023) developed a comprehensive framework that combines Erikson's psychosocial theory with narrative analysis to understand the identity transformation of female characters in literary works. A breakthrough research conducted by Pilcher (2024) identified universal patterns of identity formation through a comparative analysis of 150 classic and contemporary novels featuring female protagonists. Meanwhile, the latest methodological advancement is shown by Neale (2024) who uses a mixed-method approach in analyzing the correlation between the identity transformation of fictional characters and the psychosocial development of readers, especially children and adolescent girls.

Although the progress of research in the field of literary psychology is quite significant, there are still research gaps that need to be filled. First, there is no in-depth study that specifically analyzes the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll from the perspective of Erikson's psychosocial theory with a focus on the stages of industry vs inferiority and identity vs role confusion. Second, there is a lack of studies that explore girls' identity transformation in the context of classical literature as a model for character learning. Third, there is a lack of studies that connect the analysis of Alice's identity transformation with its practical application in the development of character education for girls. These research gaps show the need for a comprehensive investigation that can bridge theoretical analysis with practical implementation in the context of education and child development.

Based on the identified gaps, the urgency of this research becomes even more relevant amidst the increasing need for a better understanding of girls' identity formation. The significance of this research lies in its potential to generate a theoretical framework that can be applied in the development of psychoeducative intervention strategies to support girls' positive identity formation (Grant, 2024). In addition, this research has important practical implications for educators, child psychologists, and parents in understanding the psychological dynamics that girls experience during critical developmental periods.

The novelty of this research lies in the innovative approach that integrates literary psychology analysis with Erikson's psychosocial theory, specifically on the two developmental stages most relevant to Alice's characteristics. The methodological novelty of this research is the use of an analytical *framework* that explicitly focuses on the manifestations of *industry vs inferiority* and *identity vs role confusion* in Alice's journey of transformation in Wonderland. This research also offers a new interpretative perspective by positioning Alice's adventure as a psychological allegory about girls' search for identity, which has never been systematically explored in academic literature. The expected theoretical contribution is the development of an analytical model that can be applied to similar literary works and provide an empirical foundation for the design of gender-responsive character education programs.

The transition from theoretical context to practical application shows that identity transformation research through literary analysis has great potential to provide solutions to contemporary character education challenges. The novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" as a time-tested literary classic offers a rich representation of a girl's psychological journey that can serve as a learning model. The unique characteristics of Alice as the protagonist who undergoes various transformations throughout

her adventures in the fantasy world provide an opportunity for a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of identity formation. The psychological complexities depicted in Alice's interactions with various characters and situations in Wonderland reflect the real challenges girls face in their self-discovery process.

Based on the complexity of the problems, research gaps, and potential contributions that have been described, this study is designed to deeply analyze the identity transformation of Alice in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" using a literary psychology approach based on Erik Erikson's psychosocial theory. The focus of the analysis will be directed at a comprehensive understanding of how the manifestations of the stages of industry vs inferiority and identity vs role confusion are reflected in Alice's transformation journey, as well as its implications for the development of a theoretical model of girls' identity formation that can be applied in the context of education and character development. Through this approach, the research aims to fill the theoretical gap while making a practical contribution to improving the quality of girls' character education in the contemporary era.

Research on identity transformation in literary works has grown rapidly in the last two decades, with various theoretical approaches used to analyze the character development of fictional characters. Studies in literary psychology conducted by Ragland (2023) and Schubert (2021) used Freud's psychoanalytic theory to analyze the identity formation of female characters in Victorian novels, finding that the protagonists' internal conflicts reflect the personality structures of id, ego, and superego. These studies make an important contribution to understanding the psychological dynamics of female characters, but are limited to the classical psychoanalytic approach without considering aspects of psychosocial development. Meanwhile, studies conducted by Vatan (2021) and Simcoe (2023) applied cognitive psychology theory to analyze the decision-making process of child characters in five contemporary novels, revealing consistent cognitive patterns in identity formation. Although they provide valuable insights into cognitive aspects, these studies do not specifically focus on the stages of psychosocial development proposed by Erikson.

Significant developments in the study of identity transformation through the lens of Erikson's theory are beginning to be seen in more recent studies. Conducting a comparative analysis of six children's to adolescent romance novels using Erikson's psychosocial theoretical framework, it is found that most of the protagonists experience an identity crisis aligned with the identity vs role confusion stage. An important finding of this study is the identification of universal patterns in the identity-seeking process reflected in the narrative structure of the novels. However, this study has limitations in terms of gender focus, because it does not specifically distinguish the experiences of male and female characters in the process of identity transformation. Furthermore, Al-Mayali (2023) and Spacks (2022) studied identity formation in children's literature using a mixed-method approach that combines textual analysis and reader reception studies. The results show that female characters in literary works have a tendency to experience more complex conflicts in the industry vs inferiority stage than male characters, which manifests in the form of self-doubt and the search for external validation.

Research that specifically examines the transformation of girls' identities has begun to receive more serious attention in recent years. Zhukovskaya (2023) conducted a feminist analysis of ten novels featuring girl protagonists, revealing that the process of identity formation of female characters is often hampered by the social construction of gender that limits self-exploration. An important contribution of this study is the identification of narrative strategies used by authors to illustrate female characters' resistance to gender stereotypes. Meanwhile, Al-Barakat (2023) and Gerke (2023) used a developmental psychology approach to analyze classic novels featuring girls, finding significant correlations between Erikson's developmental stages and plot structure and character development. These studies successfully identified psychological markers that indicate transitions between developmental stages in narratives, but it is still limited to theoretical analysis without exploring their practical implications. Recent studies conducted by Zhao (2021) and Belkhiria (2021) applied intersectionality theory to understand the identity complexity of girl characters in a

multicultural context, resulting in an analytical framework that considers gender, social class, and ethnicity factors in the identity formation process.

While these studies have made valuable contributions to understanding identity transformation in literature, there are some similarities and differences that need to be noted. The main similarities lie in the use of psychological approaches in analyzing character development, as well as the focus on the internal processes experienced by protagonists. However, significant differences are seen in the choice of theoretical framework, with some studies using classical psychoanalysis, while others adopt contemporary developmental theories. Common weaknesses identified are the lack of specific focus on the stages of *industry vs inferiority* and *identity vs role confusion* in the context of girl characters, as well as the lack of practical application of theoretical findings for character education development. In addition, most previous studies have not explored in depth classic novels such as "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," which have great potential as representations of girls' identity transformation.

Based on an analysis of *the state of the art* of previous research, this study is positioned to fill the existing scientific gap by integrating the literary psychology approach and Erikson's psychosocial theory, specifically on the two developmental stages most relevant to the characteristics of girl characters. The unique contribution of this research lies in the explicit focus on the manifestation of the stages of *industry vs inferiority* and *identity vs role confusion* in Alice's identity transformation, as well as the in-depth exploration of a classic novel that has not received adequate attention in contemporary literary psychology literature. This research also offers an innovative perspective by positioning Alice's adventure as a psychological allegory that can provide a learning model for girls' identity development, thus bridging the gap between theoretical analysis and practical application that has been a limitation of previous studies.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with content analysis method to analyze the transformation of girl's identity in the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll. The qualitative approach was chosen because it is in accordance with the research objectives that are intended to describe, analyze, and interpret the in-depth phenomenon of Alice's identity transformation through textual analysis. This method allows researchers to explore the psychological complexity of characters and understand the process of identity formation manifested in the narrative without manipulating the object of research (Creswell, 2018). The descriptive nature of this research is realized through a systematic depiction of how Erik Erikson's stages of psychosocial development are reflected in Alice's transformation journey throughout the storyline.

The data collection technique in this research adopts the Miles and Huberman qualitative data analysis model which consists of three main components that are carried out simultaneously and continuously. First, the data reduction stage is carried out by reading thoroughly and repeatedly the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" to identify, select, and focus data relevant to the research. Second, presentation of data is carried out by organizing and compiling the reduced data in the form of matrices, tables, or schemes that allow drawing conclusions. Last step, textual data that has been categorized will be presented systematically based on the classification of psychosocial development stages. Conclusions is obtained gradually from the beginning of data collection by identifying patterns, themes, and meanings that emerge from text analysis. Initial conclusions will be verified through a process of triangulation with secondary data sources and confirmation through repeated readings of the novel text (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). Final conclusions will include a comprehensive interpretation of how Alice's identity transformation reflects the psychological dynamics of the *industry vs inferiority* and *identity vs role confusion* stages, as well as implications for theoretical understandings of girls' identity formation.

The data analysis technique used in this research is content analysis with a qualitative approach. Content analysis was chosen because it is in accordance with the characteristics of the research which aims to identify, categorize, and interpret the meanings contained in the novel text systematically and objectively (Krippendorff, 2018). The content analysis process is carried out through several stages,

namely: (a) determining the unit of analysis in the form of words, sentences, paragraphs, or episodes that describe the psychological aspects of Alice's character; (b) developing categories of analysis based on theoretical indicators from the industry vs inferiority and identity vs role confusion stages; (c) coding by labeling or coding each unit of analysis in accordance with the predetermined categories; (d) analyzing the frequency and pattern of occurrence of each category to identify the dominant tendency in Alice's identity transformation; and (e), interpreting the meaning by connecting the empirical findings with Erik Erikson's theoretical framework to produce a comprehensive understanding of the process of girls' identity formation reflected in Alice's character.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" presents a complex journey of identity transformation through the character of Alice, a seven year old girl who experiences a series of adventures in a fantasy world. Alice's identity transformation is not only manifested in the physical changes she undergoes from shrinking to growing but more fundamentally in the psychological evolution of her character. At the beginning of the story, Alice is portrayed as an obedient child, following the conventional rules of Victorian society, and tends to be passive in dealing with situations. However, throughout her journey in Wonderland, Alice gradually develops independence, the courage to question authority, and the ability to make her own decisions. These changes reflect the process of self-discovery experienced by girls in the transition from childhood to adolescence.

Table 1. Psychosocial Analysis of Industry vs Inferiority and Identity vs Role Confusion

No.	Aspect Analysis	Industry vs Inferiority	Identity vs Role Confusion
1	Stage Definition	The stage where the child develops a sense of competence through mastering new skills or experiencing feelings of inferiority if they fail to reach standards	Stage of searching for a coherent self-identity or experiencing role confusion if failing to integrate various aspects of personality
2	Manifestations in the Novel	Episode with the Caterpillar (failing to read the poem correctly); tea party with the Mad Hatter (frustrated with Wonderland's logic); learning to control body size changes; and adaptation to the strange rules in Wonderland.	Existential question "Who in the world am I?"; philosophical dialog with the Cheshire Cat; conflict of values in the court episode; opposition to the Queen of Hearts
3	Alice's behavior	Trying to prove logical ability; frustrated when not meeting expectations; developing adaptation skills; learning to communicate with Wonderland creatures	Questioning identity and place in the world; exploration of personal values; rejecting unreasonable authority; integrating new experiences with old identities
4	Main Conflict	Competence vs Incompetence: Is Alice capable of mastering new skills? Can she adapt to an unfamiliar environment?	Coherent Identity vs Role Confusion Who is Alice really? Which values to defend?
5	Key Episode	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the Caterpillar: Alice fails to recite the poem "Father William" correctly, giving rise to feelings of inferiority; Mad Tea Party: Frustrated at not being able to follow the logic of the conversation Mushroom Scene: Learning to control body size 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pool of Tears: Questions of identity after physical transformation Cheshire Cat Encounter: A dialog about madness and normality Queen's Court: Opposition to the absurd system of authority

6	Alice's Coping Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trial and error in mastering new skills 2. Persistence despite failure 3. Seek help from other characters 4. Gradual adaptation to the environment 	Self-reflection and introspection; questioning norms and authority; experimentation with different roles; synthesizing experiences to form an identity
7	Positive Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alice develops flexible adaptability 2. Cross-species communication skills 3. Mastery of physical transformation 4. Confidence in salty situations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alice achieves loyalty to personal values 2. Commitment to truth and justice 3. Consistent moral integrity 4. Authentic identity
8	Negative Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appears when Alice fails to meet expectations (Caterpillar poem) 2. Feeling incompetent in Wonderland logic 3. Frustration with inability to understand rules 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seen in identity confusion after transformation 2. Conflict between old values vs. new experiences 3. Role uncertainty in Wonderland society
9	Social Interaction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn from different characters as a mentor 2. Developing relationships with Wonderland creatures 3. Seek validation of skills from others 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resisting the pressure of social conformity 2. Building relationships based on personal values 3. Develop autonomy in decision-making
10	Physical Transformation as Metaphor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resizing is a process of trial and error in mastering skills 2. Shrinking body size is a feeling of inadequacy 3. Enlarged body size is an excess of self-confidence 4. Being able to control body size is an achievement of competency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical transformation is an exploration of identity 2. External changes reflect internal searches 3. Physical instability is identity instability 4. Transformation control is the integration of identity
11	Resolution in the Novel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alice successfully masters navigation skills in Wonderland 2. She possesses effective communication skills such as control over physical transformation and confidence in facing challenges 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alice achieves clarity about personal identity such as commitment to moral values 2. She has courage to maintain integrity 3. She integrates Wonderland experience with herself
12	Gender Relevance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victorian girls are restricted in their exploration of competence 2. Alice pushes boundaries by developing physical courage such as demonstrating strategic intelligence and building assertiveness 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formation of a balanced gender identity 2. Rejecting the conventional passive model of femininity 3. Integrating strengths and empathy 4. Building an identity that is not subordinate
13	Development Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of providing girls with opportunities to explore a range of skills 2. Experiencing failure as part of learning and developing the ability to recover from difficult 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for support for comprehensive identity exploration 2. Development of personal values in the form of integration of various aspects of personality

 situations

Based on the data presented in Table 1, Alice's identity transformation shows a unique and complex developmental pattern. The most significant finding is the simultaneous manifestation of both Erikson's psychosocial stages which theoretically should occur sequentially. This phenomenon indicates that extreme and transformative experiences such as Alice's in Wonderland can accelerate or intensify the process of psychosocial development. This is in line with the concept of "accelerated development" in developmental psychology, where intense crisis or challenge situations can trigger psychological growth that is faster than normal development.

The table analysis reveals that the stages of industry vs inferiority and identity vs role confusion do not operate separately in Alice's transformation, but rather interact and reinforce each other. When Alice faces competence challenges (industry vs inferiority) such as in the Caterpillar or Mad Tea Party episodes, the experience simultaneously triggers deeper identity questions (identity vs role confusion). Conversely, Alice's exploration of identity also influences the way she approaches competence challenges. For example, after the dialog with the Cheshire Cat that sharpens her identity awareness, Alice shows a more confident approach in dealing with subsequent challenging situations.

The table shows that Alice's physical transformation serves as an externalization of a complex internal psychological process. When Alice shrinks, this not only represents feelings of inferiority or powerlessness, but also symbolizes the process of introspection and self-examination which are important characteristics in identity formation. Conversely, when Alice grows bigger, it reflects a phase of exploration and aggressive testing of boundaries. Alice's ability to finally control her physical transformation shows the achievement of mastery not only in the aspect of competence (industry) but also in self-regulation and identity management.

Table 2. Comparison of Alice's Characteristics at the Beginning vs. the End of the Novel

No.	Dimensions	Alice Early (Industry vs. Dominant Inferiority)	Alice's End (Identity vs Role Confusion Integrated)
1	Attitude towards Authority	Complying and not questioning	Be critical and dare to reject when it does not make sense
2	Self-confidence	Indecisive and easily inferior	Confident with a clear identity
3	Problem Solving	Depends on existing atueran	Creative and adaptive in finding solutions
4	Social Interaction	Passive and following expectations	Assertive and defending personal values
5	Self-concept	Unclear and easily influenced	Integrated and consistent

Table 2 reveals highly significant transformations in five key dimensions of Alice's personality, reflecting the successful resolution of both Erikson's psychosocial stages. The most striking change can be seen in Alice's attitude towards authority, where the transformation from blind obedience to critical thinking shows a remarkable achievement of psychological maturity. This change did not happen suddenly, but through a series of experiences that gradually built Alice's confidence and autonomous thinking. Episodes such as the interaction with the Duchess, the confrontation with the Queen of Hearts, and the dialog with various Wonderland characters serve as catalysts that encourage Alice to develop a more independent stance towards authority figures.

The comparison in Table 2 shows that Alice's self-confidence undergoes a transformation from fragile and dependent to robust and self-sustaining. At the beginning of the novel, Alice's confidence relies heavily on external validation and conformity to social expectations. However, through a series of challenges in Wonderland, Alice learns that true confidence must come from self-knowledge and personal values rather than external approval. The transformation of Alice's self-concept from unclear

to integrated reflects the successful navigation through identity crisis which is the core of the identity vs role confusion stage.

Discussion

The integration of the analysis between the data contained in Table 1 and Table 2 reveals a remarkable coherence in Alice's identity transformation, where every aspect of character change identified in Table 2 can be traced to its origins through the manifestation of the psychosocial stages analyzed in Table 1. The transformation of Alice's attitude towards authority, from submissive to critical, is a direct result of the successful navigation of the identity vs role confusion stage, manifested through the conflict of values in the court episode and the opposition to the Queen of Hearts. Similarly, the evolution of Alice's self-confidence depicted in Table 2 reflects the achievement of virtue competence from the industry vs inferiority stage as seen in her ability to master her physical transformation and adapt to the Wonderland environment.

The strong correlation between the two tables suggests that Alice's identity transformation is not a superficial change, but rather a fundamental restructuring of the psychological framework underlying her personality (Ferreira, 2021). The key episodes identified in Table 1, such as the interaction with the Caterpillar and the dialogue with the Cheshire Cat, serve as turning points that directly contribute to the characteristic changes measured in Table 2. This indicates that Alice's identity transformation follows a logical and predictable developmental pattern, following Erikson's *theoretical framework* (Doniger, 2022).

This suggests that Alice's identity transformation reflects a complex navigation between Erikson's two stages of psychosocial development. Although chronologically Alice is in the industry vs inferiority stage, the extreme experiences in Wonderland accelerate the exploration of the characteristics of the identity vs role confusion stage. Alice's success in overcoming the challenges of these two stages results in healthy identity integration, characterized by the development of competence and fidelity as psychosocial virtues fundamental to girls' development.

Manifestation of the Industry vs Inferiority Stage

The *industry vs inferiority* stage in Erikson's theory is clearly reflected in the various episodes of Alice's adventures, particularly in her interactions with the various characters in Wonderland. While Alice interacts with the hookah-smoking Caterpillar, she experiences a crisis of competence when she is asked to recite the poem "Father William," but the result is different from what she expects. This event shows Alice's feelings of inferiority towards her abilities, which is a key characteristic of this stage. Furthermore, in the tea party episode with the Mad Hatter and the March Hare, Alice tries to prove her logic skills through riddles and conversations, but often feels frustrated because Wonderland's logic is different from what she understands (Cherry, 2022). Nevertheless, Alice shows positive development in the industrial aspect when she manages to master new skills such as adapting to her changing body size and learning to communicate with the strange creatures in Wonderland. These adaptations demonstrate the development of a sense of competence and confidence which is a positive outcome of the industry vs inferiority stage.

Evolution in the Identity vs Role Confusion Stage

Although Alice is still chronologically in the age range of the industry vs inferiority stage, her adventures in Wonderland show the early characteristics of the identity vs role confusion stage that usually occurs in adolescence. This can be seen from the existential questions that begin to arise in Alice, such as "Who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle!" which she utters after undergoing a series of physical transformations. This identity confusion is intensified when Alice interacts with the Cheshire Cat, who provides a philosophical perspective on madness and normality (Vid, 2024; Li, 2025). Their dialogue reveals Alice's search for self-understanding and place in an absurd world. The episode at the Queen of Hearts' court is the culmination of Alice's exploration of identity vs role confusion, where she must choose between accepting the absurd rules of Wonderland or maintaining the values and identity she carries from the real world. Alice's decision to defy the Queen of Hearts by

declaring "You're nothing but a pack of cards!" demonstrates a positive resolution of the identity crisis, where she manages to maintain self-integrity while developing the courage to reject unreasonable authority.

The Dynamics of Gender Identity Formation

Alice's identity transformation also reflects the complexity of gender identity formation in 19th-century girls. At the beginning of the story, Alice exhibits characteristics that conform to Victorian gender expectations of being polite, submissive, and conflict-averse. However, her adventures in Wonderland allow her to explore aspects of her personality that were not usually allowed for girls at that time (Ferreira, 2021; Frickle, 2022). Alice shows physical courage when swimming in the pool of tears, strategic intelligence in dealing with various dilemmas, and assertiveness when interacting with characters who try to dominate or manipulate her. Alice's interaction with the Duchess, who represents an adult female authority figure, shows Alice's rejection of the repressive conventional model of femininity. In contrast, through her encounters with characters like Mock Turtle and Gryphon, Alice develops empathy and caring skills, which are positive aspects of female gender identity, but in a more balanced and less subordinate context.

Transformational Symbolism in Psychological Context

The physical transformation that Alice undergoes in size serves as a powerful metaphor for the psychological changes that occur in the process of identity formation. When Alice shrinks, she experiences feelings of helplessness and vulnerability, which reflect the inferiority aspect in Erikson's stage of development. Conversely, when she grows in size, Alice feels an overwhelming sense of power and dominance, which is symbolic of extreme identity exploration before finding balance (Li, 2020). The trial-and-error process of controlling her changing body size through the consumption of magical foods and drinks illustrates Alice's experimentation with various aspects of self-identity. The episode at the White Rabbit's house, where Alice is trapped because of her oversized body, symbolizes the conflict between the desire to grow and mature and the fear of responsibility and expectations that come with it. Alice's ability to finally control her physical transformation at the end of the story shows the achievement of balance in her psychological identity.

Identity Resolution and Integration

The climax of Alice's identity transformation occurs in the court episode, where she must integrate all the learning and experiences she has gained in Wonderland. At this moment, Alice demonstrates a synthesis of the various aspects of identity that she has explored, such as courage, intelligence, empathy, and moral integrity. Her decision to defy the absurd court system shows that she has successfully developed a personal value system independent of external pressures (Ahmadi, 2021). Alice's awakening from the dream can be interpreted as symbolizing the integration of transformative experiences into her self-awareness. Despite returning to the real world, Alice has undergone a fundamental change in the way she views herself and her environment. This transformation is permanent, reflected in her ability to maintain a sense of wonder and the courage to question social conventions that she previously accepted uncritically.

Implications of Identity Transformation for Girls' Development

Alice's journey of identity transformation provides a valuable model for understanding girls' psychosocial development. The novel shows that healthy identity formation requires opportunities for exploration, experimentation, and even confusion as a natural part of the developmental process (Chen, 2025). Alice's ability to maintain curiosity, develop critical thinking, and build self-confidence through the challenges she faces in Wonderland illustrates the importance of providing space for girls to explore various aspects of personality (Cherry, 2022; Ragland, 2023). Alice's transformation also shows that an authentic identity cannot be imposed from the outside, but must be constructed through personal experience and self-reflection. This has important implications for girls' education and

upbringing, which is often limited by rigid gender expectations and does not provide adequate opportunities for comprehensive identity exploration.

A comprehensive analysis shows that Alice's identity transformation reflects a complex and successful navigation between Erikson's two stages of psychosocial development. Although chronologically Alice is in the industry vs inferiority stage, the extreme experiences in Wonderland accelerate the exploration of the characteristics of the identity vs role confusion stage. Alice's success in overcoming the challenges of these two stages results in a healthy identity integration, characterized by the development of competence and fidelity as fundamental psychosocial virtues for girls' development. The transformation from a passive and dependent character to an assertive and autonomous one demonstrates an ideal model for healthy female identity development that can be applied in contemporary educational and therapeutic contexts.

CONCLUSION

This study identifies the complex and multidimensional identity transformation of Alice in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" through the lens of Erik Erikson's psychosocial theory. An in-depth analysis of the stages of industry vs inferiority and identity vs role confusion reveals that Alice undergoes a unique psychological navigation, where both stages of development are manifested simultaneously and interact with each other throughout the narrative. Alice's identity transformation occurs through three main phases: an initial disorientation phase characterized by confusion and feelings of inferiority, an active exploration phase through interactions with various Wonderland characters, and an integration phase where Alice successfully consolidates experiences into a coherent and authentic identity.

The manifestation of the industry vs inferiority stage is evident in Alice's attempts to master new skills and adapt to the unfamiliar environment of Wonderland. Episodes such as the interaction with the Caterpillar, the Mad Tea Party, and the control of the physical transformation demonstrate the trial-and-error process characteristic of this stage. Alice fluctuates between feeling competent when successfully overcoming challenges and feeling inferior when facing failure or criticism. However, Alice's persistence and adaptability allow her to gradually develop a sense of competence which becomes the main virtue of the industry vs inferiority stage.

Meanwhile, the characteristics of the identity vs role confusion stage emerge through Alice's existential questions about self-identity and place in the world. The philosophical dialogue with the Cheshire Cat, the conflict of values in the court episode, and the opposition to the authority of the Queen of Hearts reflect a profound identity-seeking process. Alice successfully integrates the various aspects of the Wonderland experience with her personal values, resulting in an authentic and integrated identity. The achievement of virtue fidelity is seen in Alice's commitment to truth and justice, as well as the courage to maintain moral integrity despite the pressure of conformity.

This study successfully demonstrates that the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll represents a complex and multifaceted transformation of girls' identity through the psychological journey of Alice. The application of Erik Erikson's psychosocial theory, particularly the stages of industry vs inferiority and identity vs role confusion, proved effective in analyzing the dynamics of identity formation as reflected in the literary narrative. Alice's transformation from a passive and conformist character to an assertive individual with moral integrity shows a healthy and inspiring model of identity development for girls. The contribution of this research is not only theoretical in enriching the treasures of literary psychology, but also has significant practical relevance for education, child psychology, and character development. The novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" proves to be not just a work of entertainment, but a profound representation of the journey of self-discovery experienced by girls in the process of searching for identity. This research opens up opportunities for further exploration of the potential of literature as a medium to understand and support children's psychosocial development, especially in the context of authentic and balanced identity formation.

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