

## CHAPTER V

### BEHAVIORIST ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the behaviorist analysis that concerned in analysis of the influence of environment in the personality development of the major character in trilogy *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*. This chapter is divided into two. The first is influence of environment covering home environment, foster care environment, and larger society environment. The second is discussion which discusses the relationship of David's personality development in child abuse with the trilogy.

#### **A. The Influence of Environment**

Environment is the circumstances or conditions that surround one. The various environments that one encounter in day-to-day life have an impact on his overall behaviors and attitudes. From the home life to society life, environments can either be a positive or negative influence.

In trilogy *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*, the major character gets some influences from the environment. The influence that he gets come from three different environments. The first influence he gets from home environment, the second influence is from foster care, and the last influence comes from larger society.

David stayed at home since child until 12 years old. Next, he continued his life in foster homes from the age of 12 to 18 after survived from home. Then he spent his adulthood in larger society environment. From those three different environments, he shapes his behavior and attitude.

### **1. Home Environment**

Family is the first community that one meet since born. Family usually consists of father, mother, and child. Family has important role in shaping one's behavior. The family environment can influence one's behavior negatively or positively. It also happens to the major character David. He gets both positive and negative influence in family environment.

David's life started out well. He lived in Daly City, California, with his mother, father, and two brothers. In these very early years he said it was full of love.

In the years before I was abused, my family was the "Brady Bunch" of the 1960s. My two brothers and I were blessed with the perfect parents. Our every whim was fulfilled with love and care (ACCI: 15).

Soon, however, things took an awful turn for the worse. This mother's discipline turned into punishment that grew out of control. The horrendous abuse he suffered at the hands of his alcoholic, mentally disturbed mother nearly killed him.

My relationship with Mom drastically changed from discipline that developed into a kind of lifestyle that grew out of control. It became so bad at times, I had no strength to crawl away – even if it meant saving my life (ACCI: 21).

David grew up in a home with an unloving mother, a father who refused to deal with his own son's mistreatment and brothers who saw David as the household maid. It was not until the love of a teacher that David finally escaped the abuse of his own mother.

I hated Mother most and wished that she were dead (ACCI: 78).

David really hated his mother because she abused him by any way she thinks until David nearly dead. Therefore, he hopes for mother's death and he can free from mother's torture.

I also hated Father. He was fully aware of the hell I lived in, but he lacked the courage to rescue me as he had promised so many times in the past (ACCI: 79).

David also hated his father because father only did nothing when he saw what mother did to him. He had ever promised to rescue David but he never perform his promise.

The boys who lived upstairs were no longer my brothers. Sometimes in years past, they had managed to encourage me a little. But in the summer of 1972 they took turns hitting me and appeared to enjoy throwing their weight around. It was obvious that they felt superior to the family slave (ACCI: 79).

His siblings were also annoying David. They join to mother's game to underestimate him and hit him.

David had experienced in abused by his mother for eight years.

The eight years of constant torture have sucked my life force out of me (AMND: 10).

When David was nine years old he suffers from his mother's treats. He is tormented in that house as a child. It becomes a prison to David. His teachers at school called for police to free him.

The officer smiles with relief, as we leave the city limits. "David Pelzer," he says, "you're free." (ACCI: 13)

#### a. Significant Others

The most influential in shaping his character since at home was his mother. His father only gives him little influence. Beside that, the author only mentioned a little about school especially about his teachers.

In this environment mostly David spent his time with his parents. Because of that reason the lesson that he learned mostly comes from them, especially his mother, from her he learned many things that important affected in his behavior.

##### 1) Catherine Roerva (Mother)

Roerva was a mother of David. She was a homemaker and an alcoholic who started abusing David when he was four years old.

Once, when I was four or five years old, Mom said she was sick, and I remember feeling that she did not seem to be herself at all (ACCI: 15).

Roerva played tortuous and unpredictable games that left David nearly dead. She considered David no longer as a son but a slave; no longer a boy, but an 'it'.

By the time I was eight, my name was no longer allowed to be spoken. She had replaced "David" with "The Boy". Soon The Boy seemed too personal, so she decided to call me "It" (ACCI: 9).

Mother is portrayed as ugly both physically and emotionally. She is over-weight and takes no interest in her appearance. Far worse, she is vicious and physically abusive of David. She made David wash dishes in scalding water, unable to remove his hands.

Roerva was mentally ill. She was a hitter. Roerva made David eat his brother's feces, drink ammonia, and would hold his arm over a gas stove. She really hated David and absolutely wanted David die. It can be seen from mother's statement:

"if you don't finish on time, I'm going to kill you!" (ACCI: 51)

Physically, she was seen to an evil person but she usually wore black glasses to hide her evil face, and shown everybody that she was regal. Besides, she had dark yellow teeth. She planned everything against David.

Above me The Mother stands poised, revealing her yellow teeth and putrid, steamy breath (AMND: 46).

Socially, she seemed to control the other. It could be seen when she forced her husband to keep silent, and to ignore David. Otherwise, mother didn't want to be controlled by others.

Mother now had complete control over everybody in the household (ACCI: 61).

At home, David's life is like in hell because he gets torture from his mother. His mother always asks David to do chores. One lesson that can be taken from mother is that Mother's order must be performed. If David doesn't do it properly, he will get punishment. He also must obey all the rules she makes. Breaking the rules means punishment. Therefore, he became obedience to mother.

## 2) Stephen Joseph (Father)

Stephen was a father of David. He is tall and has well build body with muscle and black eyebrows.

He stood about five feet ten inches tall, and he weighed about 190 pounds. He had broad shoulders and forearms that would make any muscle man proud. His thick black eyebrows matched his hair (ACCI: 15).

He worked as a fireman in San Francisco. He is heroic. As a fireman, his job is to save people's life from fire.

My father, Stephen Joseph, supported his family as a fireman, working in the heart of San Francisco (ACCI: 15).

He also protected David carefully. He loved his son very much. But unfortunately the mother controlled him in everything. His once rigid shoulders were now slumped over, because of his habit of drink.

Father became my protector (ACCI: 23).

His years of drinking and the strained relationship with his wife have taken their toll on him. And the wife made him a beaten man. Stephen refused to deal with his own son's mistreatment, and brothers who saw David as the household maid.

He ignored David and eventually left, leaving David alone. After leaving the broken home, Stephen physically became weaker and weaker.

Socially, Stephen was a good hard worker. He had so many friends. He retired early for he faced many troubles in his life that made him useless. His habits of drinking destroyed his own life.

David totally hates his father because of his weakness of being controlled by mother. His father has been ever promised to free him from that home. But that quest is only a wish, never performed.

At that moment I hated Mother to no end, but I hated Father even more. The man who had helped me in the past, just stood like a statue while his son ate something even a dog wouldn't touch. (ACCI: 42)

However, the image of his father as a hero cannot be brushed from his mind. David learns to be hero from his father.

Sitting on the far end of the couch was my hero. I knew he would take care of Mother and drive me to the hospital (ACCI: 53).

### 3) Friends and teachers at Thomas Edison Elementary School

School as a place where every child spent their time to acquire a lot of things also has its influence in forming their character. The influences those are carried away by every member of this environment such as peers and teachers play an important key in shaping his behavior.

In this book the school environment of the major character is a place to get free from home. School was a heaven for David that he was thrilled to be away from Mother. At home, he couldn't do anything he want. At school, he expressed his feeling like a wild child.

School was a haven for me. I was thrilled to be away from Mother. At recess I was a wild man (ACCI: 45).

David made friends easily and felt so happy to be at school. He was also a clever kid in his class. But one day mother stated that David was to be held back from the first grade because he was a bad boy. Mother continued to roar that he had shamed the family and would be severely punished.

I made friends easily and felt so happy to be at school (ACCI: 25).

In addition, when mother seldom gave him meals, David stole food at school. His cloth was never changed and his body smelt badly. His school friends began to set him away and to insult him as "David the Food Thief" and "Pelzer- Smellzer".

"David the Food Thief" and "Pelzer- Smellzer" were two of the playground favorites (ACCI: 36).

At school David was a total outcast. No other kid would have anything to do with him. He learned to be introvert from his friends.

At school I was a total outcast. No other kid would have anything, I devised a plan that might work (ACCI: 36).

In the same opinion with students, the teachers at first looked down to David too. They saw David as a bad boy who liked to steal. Soon, they knew that David got abuse at home and began to have sympathy to him. They called police and set him free from home.

The police officer explains why Mr Hansen called him (ACCI: 11).

David was very thankful to his teachers. Because of them, he could be free from mother. They are the true heroes of escaping David from abuse. They are meritorious for him. David learned to be hero from his teachers, especially to survive the abused child like him.

b. Lesson Learned from 4 to 12

The age of four to twelve is the age when David got abuse from his mother. In his childhood, he got some lessons from people around him at home. Lessons learned that David got in this age are:

1) Responsiveness

During staying at home, David becomes responsive for everything that will happen to him. He can read what mother will do and take some acts as the response before the worst thing happens. For example, when mother gave him food, he had grabbed and eaten the food before mother threw it. He also suddenly used his arms and hands to protect himself from mother's beating. This responsiveness leads him to do everything in quick way.

as quickly as I can, I swallow it before Mother changes her mind (ACCI: 7).

I do everything as fast as possible (ACCI: 9)

David can also read the condition of his mother although he is still a child. He knew when the mother would be kind from the dress and the voice. When mother dressed well its mean no beating. The voice can be seen from the tone. The higher mother's voice the angrier she is.

As a four year old child, I knew by the sound of Mother's voice what type of day was in store for me (AMND: 8).

## 2) Obedience

David should do all her mother's order or he would get punishment and didn't get food. Therefore, David has to be obedient to mother.

I learned the hard way that she takes that as an act of defiance, which means more hits, or worst of all, no food (ACCI: 7).

The obedience appears not because David loves his mother but because he is afraid of her, for being got more hits or no food. He is just like a prison of war who must do all the order from the superior or a slave who must obey the master's words. The superior or the master is mother and the oppressed or the slave is David.

The mother also frightened David to kill him if he didn't catch the job on time. Willing unwilling, David should be obedient to mother. It can be seen from mother's statement that she would kill David.

"if you don't finish on time, I'm going to kill you!" (ACCI: 51)

## 3) Survive

Some ways David did to survive. For instance, David stole his friend's lunch boxes to get food because mother didn't feed him, he used to imagine to lose his hunger or to escape from burden of life.

I always stole food before school began (ACCI: 31)

Being starved, David stole food. He began stealing at school from his friends' lunch boxes. He stole before school when his friends were playing outside. He would sneak to the wall and made sure that no body could see him then he grap their lunch.

... my hunger for food was replaced with daydreaming. I fantasized whenever performing my chores at the house. On my hands and knees while scrubbing the bathroom tiles, I imagined I was the prince in the story "The Prince and the Pauper". (ACCI: 37)

If David couldn't steal food, the safety way is to dream. He dreams of food therefore he can imagine as if he eats the food. In addition, David survived by imagining himself as a prince who lives well and happy in the palace without doing any chores.

#### 4) Optimistic

Mother used to abuse David through beating, scolding amonia, burning on fire, breaking his arms etc. Whatever mother abused David, he wouldn't give up to survive. He was optimist that he could survive from mother's abuse. David's commitment to survive can be seen from the statement:

Mother can beat me all she wants, but I haven't let her take away my will to somehow survive (ACCI: 7).

From the statement above, it can be seen that David wants to survive although mother often beats him. David wants to survive because he wants to prove that he isn't useless, he is not trash. He

also wants to lose mother by surviving. The mother will not be a winner as long as David is still alive. Being kept warm and breath mean that he is still alive.

#### 5) Introvert

David doesn't belong to family in his home but slave. He was separated from his siblings. He was not allowed to eat together. He was also prohibited from joining the picnic. He spent mostly his time at home.

By this time, for all practical purposes, I was no longer a member of the family (ACCI: 31).

Moreover, he had no friends at school. He was a total outcast for having bad smell on body because he never changed cloth. No one would play with him. He kept staying alone. Therefore, David became introvert.

At school I was a total outcast. No other kid would have anything to do with me (TLB: 36).

However, the introvert is shaped because David doesn't believe anyone. He hated mother who abused him; he hated father who did nothing seeing his son being abused; he also hated his siblings who were playing happily while he was doing chores. Because of that, he is difficult to belief someone and becomes introvert.

## 2. Foster Care Environment

After being survived by his teachers, David is sent to foster home. This new environment is really different from home. Therefore some of his behaviors change since he becomes foster child.

### a. Significant Others

#### 1) Aunt Mary

Aunt Mary is an elderly woman who kept David at her house from the first time he became a foster child. At aunt Mary's house, David met seven another foster child like him. He just knew there were another unwanted kids like him. Aunt Mary is strict and discipline.

Aunt Mary was a strict, elderly woman who stood her ground, but she didn't yell as she was known to do (TLB: 32).

From the statement above, Aunt Mary seems strict but she is kind not as what people around said. She reflect grabbed David's arm and about to scold him when David acted wild and uncontrolled but she cancelled it as she looked down at David who was covered his face and his knees began to shake.

The lesson David learned from Aunt Mary is not to be too close with anyone because some day David must leave the home. If David leave the home, he will be very sad if he is too close with the family.

The first two ultimate rules of being a foster child that I had learned while at Aunt Mary's were never to become too attached to anyone and never to take someone's home for granted.(TLB: 134)

## 2) Ms Gold

Ms Gold is a social worker who helps David to free from his mother's hand. Because of her, David is sentenced to be a ward of court and becomes foster child. His mother cannot abuse him anymore. Ms Gold is described as a woman who is kind and has long and blond hair. She is very care with David and they are close each other.

Her long, shiny blond hair and bright face matched her name. "Hi, " she smiled. "I'm your social worker." (TLB: 32)

David learned to be honest and brave from Ms Gold. Actually, David was afraid to tell the truth about him and mother. By Ms Gold's help, David told the truth honestly. He also learned to be confident that David was not sick but the mother. Therefore, he wouldn't blame himself about his past life. David shouldn't get the bad treat from mother. The abuse mother did to David shouldn't be done. David wasn't wrong.

She would then bend down and assure me that I did not deserve to be treated the way I was and that what my mother did to me was not my fault (TLB: 33).

## 3) Foster Parents

David moved five times from one foster home to the other. His foster parents are: Rudy and Lilian Catanze, Michael and Joanne Nulls,

Jody and Vera Jones, John and Linda Walsh, and Harold and Alice Turnbough. David learned about love and freedom from his foster parents. The love he doesn't get from mother and father and freedom to prove that he is really exist, not only an 'it'.

For over 18 years, I wanted something I knew I would never receive – Mom's love. Without a word, Alice opened her arms. And as she held me, I suddenly realized that my lifelong search for love and acceptance had finally ended in the arms of a foster parent (TLB: 179).

David was a bit surprised to see his foster parent Alice visiting him in juvenile hall. He realized that he got his foster parents not from his own parents. In addition, he got freedom.

"You mean I get to go anywhere I want to?" I asked, amazed that I suddenly had all of this unexpected freedom. (TLB: 55)

David could go anywhere and do everything when he was a child foster. In contrast, he was stuck and prohibited when he stayed at home. He should do what mother ordered.

#### 4) Foster Kids

Being a foster kid, David spent his time most with other foster kids. They really influence David's behavior. They liked to play and sometimes they stole and so did David.

Sometimes they stole candy bars from the local grocery stores. Wanting total acceptance and having already stolen food for years, I immediately followed their lead (TLB: 51).

Different from childhood that David liked school because the school was a place to free from mother, in teenage David lost interest in school because school kept him from playtime with foster kids. In this time, his handwriting became worse just like chicken scratch.

In my new school I had completely lost interest. I no longer absorbed my subjects as I had just a few weeks ago. I sat behind the gray steel desk halfdazed, scribbling on my papers, counting down the minutes until the end of the school day. What was once my sanctuary soon became a prison that kept me from my playtime at my foster home. As my attention span drifted, my handwriting, once cursive and graceful, became chicken scratch (TLB: 51).

In short, David learned to play and to steal from his foster kids to get their acceptance.

#### 5) John

John is a classmate of David. John stuck out like David. He had scraggly, long black hair and thin. John had a very distinctive walk. He also smoked.

Like me, John stuck out. He had scraggly, long black hair and thin, wornout clothes. John had a very distinctive walk, and I suddenly realized that no one seemed to pick on him. As I ran up to John, I noticed a cigarette in his hand. (TLB: 104)

In opposite, David was always be ceathed by his friends. Therefore, David joined with John's gang supposing no one insulted him. Actually, David realized that becoming John's gang means trouble.

I accepted John's challenge, knowing I was getting into trouble. (TLB: 105)

One day, John was doing his plan burning school. David was blamed to this act. He was sent to juvenile hall, the place for foster children who end up in trouble. He learned to be naughty and get trouble from John.

6) Michael A. Marsh

Michael A. Marsh taught David about polite. One day, David entered Michael's house without permission. Then Michael asked him to go out and try again then knock the door. After that, the man bowed at the waist as he waved his arm, permitting David to enter. David was welcomed warmly.

Besides, David learned to broader knowledge through reading from Marsh. He read many books in Marsh's library in his house especially about airplanes.

Dave, I spent hundreds of hours sitting in a corner of Michael's famed "Hall of Knowledge," reading books about movies, race cars and airplanes (TLB: 168).

In addition, Marsh encouraged him to be a pilot. He said that David would be the next Chuck Yeager or Charles Manson. However, Charles Manson was an Ace fighter pilot.

Michael once warned. "I have plans for my young ward. I predict that Mr Pelzer here will become the next Chuck Yeager or Charles Manson. As you can see, I'm still working on the details." (TLB: 168-169).

b. Lesson Learned from 12 to 18

In this age, David became foster child. His behavior changed because he wanted to search love and acceptance. He also wanted to express of freedom by being hyperactive. Approaching eighteen years old, he became workholic because a foster child wouldn't be on ward of the court in the age of eighteen. Therefore, he tried to get money to fulfill his needs in the future. Here are David's behavior in the age of 12 to 18:

1) Freedom

While living at home, David felt as if he was staying in jail. On the contrary, he could do everything as a foster child. He got freedom after survived from mother. Feeling freedom, David acted wild, uncontrolled and hyperactive to express his feeling for last years of silence. He also became talkative and liked to scream.

From that moment on I became a wild child. I blitzed through the home as if my pants were on fire. I joked, laughed and screamed with joy, releasing years of solitude and silence (TLB: 30).

Because David always kept silent at home, he began to be wild as he got freedom at foster home. He screamed and laughed as the expression of his feeling.

I was uncontrollable. I ran from room to room, jumping on every mattress in the home. I bounced so high my head banged again and again against the ceiling. I didn't stop until I saw stars. (TLB: 30)

David couldn't control the happiness of freedom. He ran from door to door and jumped. He also became hyperactive.

For that evening my hyperactivity ended as quickly as air could escape a balloon. (TLB: 31)

## 2) Conformity

The environment at foster home was different from his mother's home. David tried to adapt with his new environment. He did conformity to the environment around him. However, he searched for love that he didn't get at home. He did everything to get their acceptance.

I so badly wanted to be liked, to be accepted by my class, my school – by everyone (TLB: 26).

One day David saw one of his friend stealing. Then he showed his ability in stealing to his friends. They gave applause and showed their acceptance. Different from previous when he stayed at home, he did stealing not because he was hungry but because he wanted other children accept his existence. Therefore, sometimes he did stealing although he didn't need the things he stole. He only beared the goods in front of the store or gave them to children. He realized that what he did was wrong but he still did that act to get acceptance.

Wanting total acceptance and having already stolen food for years, I immediately followed their lead If someone stole two candy bars, I stole four. It seemed so easy to me that after a few afternoon trips, I became a legend within the group. I was fully aware that what I

was doing was wrong. I also knew that some of the bigger boys were using me, but I didn't care. After years of isolation, I was finally accepted within a group (TLB: 51).

### 3) Workaholic

At fifteen years old, David was fearful at the thought of how he was going to buy food or where he would live. He knew that in the age of eighteen, he wouldn't be on the ward of the court anymore and should stand by his own feet to make money. Therefore, he began to make money and work hard in the age of fifteen because for him fifteen means countdown.

Whenever they bragged about their weekend ski trips, I'd think about how I could squeeze in an extra hour of work. (TLB: 159).

In addition, he also learns how to cook from Alice to ensure he can cook for himself. He is afraid that he cannot cook by himself whether he should be independent at the age of eighteen.

I was pushing 16 and did not know how to cook for myself. Alice assured me that she would teach me when the time came. I persisted. I wanted to learn how to cook now (TLB: 159-160).

### 3. Larger Society

In his new environment David learns a lot of things which are very influential in his behavior. The lessons that he learned come from different persons and the lessons that he gets from them are different too. In his new environment he meets with several people that have an important role in his

life. From them he learns and acquires many things that he never knows before as discussed below:

a. Significant Others

1) Stephen Joseph (Father)

Whenever there is a problem with the mother, father always went to drink. His career and life is destroyed by alcohol. Drinking destroyed everything including family. David said:

my parents' drinking destroyed my family (AMND: 164)

David's father also doesn't have a house to stay. After getting divorce from his wife, he didn't have home. He sometimes went to his friends house but then he felt ashamed to stay at their homes.

Feeling ashamed, Father gave up on asking friends to stay at their home for a few nights at a time. With no one to turn to and no money, society's old hero was now alone with no place to live.

Something that David learned from father is not to be like him. To be like him means sorrow during life span. Father gave David last advice to get out from mother and be a better person. The statements said by David's father are as follows:

"Get out of here, David. Get as far away from here as you can. You're almost at that age. Get out." ... "Do what you have to. Don't end up ... don't end up like me." (AMND: 35)

David's decision not to be like father who die in sorrow can be seen from these statements:

As much as I felt sorry for him, though, I knew I did not want to – I could not – end up like him. I felt selfish thinking of myself rather than my stricken father, but his advice, Don't end up like me, became my personal commandment. (AMND: 35)

He also wants to prove that he is not a loser and will be success. He wants his father and mother proud of him.

I felt from the bottom of my soul how desperately I craved to someday make both Mother and Father proud. (AMND: 52)

## 2) Catherine Roerva (Mother)

David is haunted by his abusive childhood. He doesn't want the same thing will be repeated. Therefore, he tries to search the source why the mother was so abusive and why she hated David.

Why, why, why? What in the hell did I ever do to you to make you hate me so much? (AMND: 18)

David discovers a few things about his mother. From talking with his grandmother, it becomes evident to him that she abused his mother, who then abused David.

However, David has one final encounter with his mother a short time later. She is in poor health and wants David to forgive her for the years of abuse.

She did not display any remorse, unless Mother's bringing it up was her feeble way of seeking forgiveness. (AMND: 188)

David can't do that because there's just too much pain and hatred to let go of at this point.

To my own dismay, and after a lifetime of constantly proving my worthiness to others, I did not – I could not – forgive Mother. (AMND: 222)

Finally, he decides to unload his feelings and he forgives her.

David realizes that if he doesn't let go of these negative feelings he will become the same abusive person. He knows he has to forgive, and he does. He learned from his mother what should not to do, becoming abusive like her. Therefore he must forgive her mother to become a good father then the abuse will not be repeated.

When I had sat in front of mother just a few weeks before she died, I came within a heartbeat of stating my forgiveness. (AMND: 223)

### 3) Patsy

Patsy was the first woman in David's life. David met her in the pool. She was there with her wild friends but she was not like them who were aimless.

Even though she hung out with a wild group of friends, she seemed different. She wasn't as rowdy or aimless as the others (AMND: 149).

Like David, Patsy also got trouble with her family. She was being alienated and needed acceptance. Her mother was overbearing and Patsy ran away by hanging up with a wild group of friends.

She went on to explain that she was picked on as a child, felt out of place among her siblings, had trouble getting along with her overbearing mother, and as a teenager felt the only way to escape was to run away (AMND: 153).

Patsy and David came close in the relation. When David was flying for a long time, Patsy gave a favor to keep David's apartment. Then David gave his extra key to Patsy. But when David came from flying, he found his apartment was full of Patsy's goods. Patsy moved to David's apartment asking to stay with him. David couldn't reject her.

Patsy had never been so emotional before. I wanted to sit her down and calmly, logically explain that we were now considering moving in together (AMND: 155).

However, Patsy is a girl with many problems. She is a heavy drinker, like to go to party and she constantly spends David's money. David began to have problem living with Patsy.

Whenever I came home from my extended assignments, the first couple of days were great. We'd go out to dinner, have a few beers at her favorite bar, or see the latest movie. But within a week the elation wore off and frustrations grew (AMND:162)

Some troubles with Patsy appear but David has to marry Patsy because she is approaching to have his baby. Willing unwilling, David married to Patsy and lived together with their son Stephen.

"I'm going to have your baby!" (AMND:172)

Soon, things with Patsy turn sour and they decide to get a divorce. The failure of his marriage is David's inability to trust another person. He can't trust Patsy.

Part of me didn't trust her as much as I thought I should (AMND 162).

## 4) Marsha

Marsha is an assistant editor. She first met David because of David's first book *A Child Called It*. She made a deal about schedule of publishing David's firstbook. They often make a call and have a long conversation.

Within a few weeks I received a call from an assistant editor who introduced herself as Marsha Donohoe. We spoke about the changes she wished to make and the schedule of publishing my first book (AMND: 252).

David's relation with Marsha between aditor and author came closer. He began to imagine about Marsha.

I closed my eyes, and imagined Marsha's smile and the way she might toss her hair when she laughed (AMND: 254).

Marsha and David were inseparable. David was fascinated to Marsha but he felt that he wasn't the right person for Marsha. He didn't want to hurt Marsha. He felt Marsha was too good for him and he tought that he couldn't be with her.

You're just too perfect. I know who I am and where I belong. You're way too good for me. I'm sorry, but I don't ... I don't deserve to be with you." (AMND: 258)

Marsha encouraged David that he was precious. She mentioned all the strengthness of David. David was not a useless man but he was perfect for Marsha. Marsha wanted to be with David. Marsha was the only one who David trusted.

"I'll never deserve you. You're my best friend. I love you. You're the one, Marsha. The only one ... the only one I trust." (AMND: 264)

David decided to marry Marsha. He proposed Marsha at the Russian River. Marsha was so glad. She screamed, jumped, and hugged David as the sign of accepting David's proposal. This is what David said to propose Marsha:

What do you think of ... spending the rest of your life with me?" (AMND: 268)

From Marsha, David learned to trust someone and to differentiate between helping others and being taken advantage by others. He also learned to solve some problems.

She taught me the fine line between helping others and being taken advantage of (AMND: 266).

##### 5) Stephen Joseph Pelzer

Stephen Joseph Pelzer is David's son with Patsy. As born, Stephen was tiny that David was afraid to break his bone.

Stephen was so tiny and delicate I thought for sure he'd break if I moved the wrong way (AMND: 181)

David wanted to always save Stephen. David became paranoid since Stephen was born. He is afraid if something bad happens to Stephen.

Since Stephen was born, I had become paranoid, not only as a parent sustaining him, but other fears like illnesses, late night fevers, and getting him all the appropriate shots at the right time. (AMND:182)

David learned a lesson from Stephen. The first lesson is to do everything he can do to solve problem.

It was at the river when Stephen unknowingly taught me my first lesson: Do everything I possibly could as situations arose, but ease up a little and let go. (AMND: 182)

As a father, David realized that he got harder responsibility to his son. He wants to be a good father to Stephen. The lesson learned from his son is love. He loves his son much.

Without a shred of hesitation, my son, Stephen, was the first and only person I adored – that I absolutely loved with all of my heart and soul (AMND: 183).

#### b. Lesson Learned over 18

The experiences of David childhood and youth influence his life as an adult. Here are his behavior in adulthood:

##### 1) Independence

Being foster child and approaching eighteen, David realized that he should stand by his own feet and tried to search for living. He became an independent person.

...display myself as the fair minded, independent, responsible person that I strive to be, then by the time I left, I'd know in my heart I was no longer looked upon as a child called "It". (AMND: 185)

In the age of eighteen, David enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after doing some struggle. He became a pilot and could make a living. He should leave his foster parents because of that.

Because of the excitement of finally enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, saying goodbye to my foster parents, and struggling with my past, I had not slept in days (AMND: 31).

David declared his independence to his mother by these words:

“All those years you tried your best to break me, and I’m still here. Father’s finally free, Ron’s in the service, and soon the boys will move out on their own. I’m a good person. I try my best in everything I set out to do. I make mistakes, I screw up, but I learn. I don’t blame others for my problems. I stand on my own. And one day you’ll see, I’m going to make something out of myself”. (AMND: 105)

## 2) Open

In adulthood, David becomes open. He firstly met Patsy who was the first girl in his life. They got married and had a son but they got divorce at last. Then he opened his heart for the second to Marsha who would become his next wife. David tried to open his heart and trusted someone. Marsha was the only one who David trust.

“I’ll never deserve you. You’re my best friend. I love you. You’re the one, Marsha. The only one ... the only one I trust.” (AMND: 264)

He also told his bad experience about being abused to Ms Gold and wrote his own book about his life. The books open his secret of being abused.

Thinking of my social worker Ms Gold and what she had said to me when I had opened up to her about my secret (AMND:231)

## 3) Forgiveness

David has forgiven his mother for having abused him. He didn't want to be like her.

If I don't deal with this, all I'm doing is hiding 'the secret' like everyone else, and if I do that, then what's to say I don't become like her or like my dad (AMND: 42)

David could have easily hated mother, and treated her bad. But he chose to forgive. He won't put his son through what he went through. Hatred makes you into a hateful, bitter and twisted person. He didn't want to be like that. He didn't want to be like his mum. So he forgave. It was the only way to break the chain.

With the frame shaking in my hand, I emptied my chest. I forgave her. I forgave "The Mother". (AMND: 223)

#### 4) Care

Seeing the abuse in front of his eyes, David involved to some programs about youth at risk. He worked in juvenile hall. He also became speaker dealing with kids and the youth to give them motivation to survive.

"It's the best of both worlds. If I do this, I'll never be laid off. I can help kids, the people who work with kids, corporations, the works. I know I'll never be one of those motivational speakers you see on TV, and I don't want to be. I can't explain it, but I believe with all my heart I have a message that could really help a lot of people." (AMND: 228)

In addition, the books David wrote namely *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave* encourage the readers to survive. These three books influence American society at that time to ban the hardness to children.

"That book is definitely going to change people's lives," (AMND: 228)

## **B. Discussion**

David's experience as abused child and people around him in the environments have contributed to David's personality development. He challenges in three different environments involving home, foster care, and larger society. The personil in each environment gives different influence both positive and negative effect.

At the age of four to twelve, as a child called it, David was treated as prisoner of war. He was forced to do chores and was limited in doing anything. What mother said not, David might not do that. He was obedient to mother.

He also became responsive for what would happen to him. He knew the mother's mood from the voice and the way she dresses. Responsively he could think what he would do to accept mother's treat. Being responsive, he was trained to act quickly.

David did everything to survive. He believed that he could survive from mother's abuse. He was optimist to stay alive. Getting food and keep warm means he still alife. He doesn't want mother wins.

However, David is introvert. It is because he used to stay at home and he didn't have friends at school. His mother made him to always stay at home. Because David stole at school, he was outcast. The introvert leads him to be difficult to trust someone.

As teenager, in the age of twelve to eighteen, David tries to search his identity. He stayed in five different homes as foster child. He searched for family love and acceptance. From this environment, he got freedom that he didn't get at home. Feeling freedom, David became wild, hyperactive and uncontrolled. It was the expression of the years of solitude.

Staying in new environment, David tried to conform with his new environment. He often spent his time to play with other foster children. One day he saw the children stealing then he stole more than what they stole to get acceptance from them.

Approaching eighteen, David realized that he should stand by his own feet. Therefore, he tried to find job to get money and became workaholic. He didn't care with his friends who spend their time with joy. The more he sees his friends playing, the more he works hard.

In adulthood, David stayed with larger society. He got a job as pilot at U.S. Air Force and also got married. He was independent. He could earn his own money, could cook himself, and had apartment to stay.

David also became more open. Patsy was the first woman in his life who taught him to be more open to woman. He was forced to marry Patsy because she was approaching to have his baby. In his marriage, he couldn't trust Patsy. Therefore they got divorce. For the second time, he opened his heart to other

woman. She was Marsha. She was book editor. Marsha was the only one who David trusted.

However, David searched for the reason why his mother was so abusive. He couldn't forgive mother. But he realized that he would be like mother if he didn't forgive her. The circle of abuse can be broken by forgiving. In addition, he also join in the program which saves teenageer and encourage them to survive. He was care with them who got bad treatment in childhood.

From those three environments, the biggest influence David got to shape his behavior is the larger society. In this age, David was adult. He could take lesson from his past life to be a good man. Previously, he hated mother very much and wanted to take revenge for what she did to him. But finally he was aware that the circle of abuse should be broken by forgiving.

He doesn't want to be like his mother, then he must forgive her to case away the hatred. In addition, he is care with the children who experience in hardness and he wants to encourage them to be strong and keep surviving.

The trilogy *A Child called it*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave* have relationship with psychology. Perpetrators of abuse are usually the victims of abuse. The victims of abuse will get psychological disorders if during the time they just harbored a feeling. One day they will apply the abuse to the weaker.

In this trilogy, David's mother was the victim of abuse from David's grand mother who lived in hard time and bear children alone without husband's help. She previously was a good mother but eventually changed to be abusive as she got problem. Mother rised children alone while father went for work. This reason made mother to be stressfull then she applied her emotion to the weaker, that was David.

David, the main character, was a victim of abuse from his mother who had been ever been abused. In this case, David was persuaded to tell about his abuse so his feeling about abuse would be eased. Therefore, David could handle his emotion to mother and he wouldn't do the abuse to his children. He tried to forgive mother to break to circle of abuse.

However, David has developed from home environment to foster care and eventually to the larger society. In the end, he could break the circle of abuse. By forgiving his mother he will not be like mother who was abusive.

The author expresses his psychology through his trilogy. In *A Child Called it* he tells about the abused child to tries to survive. In *The Lost Boy*, he expresses his feeling in searching love of family. In *A Man Named Dave*, he opens his heart to forgive his mother.

In addition, by writing the trilogy, he has two purposes. The first, he encourages the parents to stay being nice in teaching children and he

encourages people who stay near abused child to be aware and keep them. The second, he also wants to encourage the children who were experienced in abuse to survive. The last hope from the author is there no more child abuse.

In conclusion, the writer here can state that there is a close relationship between psychology and trilogy *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*. Psychology is a science that studies human and animal behavior. It also studies response of human being towards the environment. In this case, the author expressed his psychology who had ever become abused child through the trilogy. He also expressed his critique for society unawareness toward child abuse. He encourages the people to be aware of child abuse and the parents to teach their children wise without violence.