

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT'S INFLUENCE ON CHARLIE'S HARD TIMES IN *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER* NOVEL

Yasmin Medina Anggia Putri, Mardliya Pratiwi Zamruddin, Fatimah M.

English Department, Faculty of Cultural Studies

Mulawarman University

Email: yasminmdna@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Symbolic Interactionism theory by Cooley explains that an individual cannot be separated from society. Individuals or groups of people will interact through communication until they finally enter the social order. Through this interaction, not only actions but also mindsets are changed. This thesis discusses the influence of the social environment on Charlie's hard times in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel. The purpose of this research is to find out and explain the influence of Charlie's social environment to help him rise from his hard times. These hard times are identified through the conflicts that Charlie faces. This thesis also focuses on Charlie's way of making new friends by interacting with his new friends, Patrick and Sam. In this case, Patrick and Sam are Charlie's social environment. Both of them provide him with various forms of social support: instrumental, tangible, informational, and emotional. The researcher uses symbolic interactionism theory with qualitative research method and a sociological approach in this thesis. Based on the analysis, Charlie, the main character, managed to get through his hard times because of his friendship with Patrick and Sam. It can be seen from the way they interact until Charlie receives all types of social support from Patrick and Sam. Charlie was given gifts, advice, entertainment, attention, love, and care. In this thesis, the researcher also found that the presence of a social environment for Charlie, who is going through hard times, has a big impact on his ability to finally be confident, feel loved by his family and friends, and be able to get along with other people around him besides Patrick and Sam. Charlie has also stated that he will begin to become preoccupied with interacting with other people in real life. He said he would not write letters so often anymore and would participate with other people.

Key words: hard times, social environment, social influence, social support

ABSTRAK

*Teori Symbolic Interactionism dari Cooley menjelaskan bahwa seorang individu tidak dapat dipisahkan dari masyarakat. Individu atau sekelompok masyarakat akan berinteraksi lewat komunikasi hingga akhirnya masuk ke dalam tatanan sosial. Lewat interaksi itu pula, tak hanya tindakan yang berubah tapi juga pola pikir. Skripsi ini membahas tentang pengaruh lingkungan sosial pada masa-masa sulit Charlie dalam novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Tujuan dilakukannya penelitian ini adalah untuk*

mencari tahu dan menjelaskan mengenai pengaruh lingkungan sosial Charlie untuk membantunya bangkit dari masa sulitnya. Masa-masa sulit itu teridentifikasi lewat konflik yang dihadapi Charlie. Skripsi ini juga berfokus pada cara Charlie menjalin pergaulan baru adalah dengan berinteraksi dengan teman-teman barunya, Patrick dan Sam. Dalam hal ini, Patrick dan Sam merupakan lingkungan sosial Charlie yang memberikannya berbagai dukungan sosial dari instrumental, tangible, informational, dan emotional. Periset menggunakan teori Symbolic Interactionism dengan metode kualitatif dan pendekatan sosiologis di dalam skripsi ini. Berdasarkan analisis, Charlie sebagai tokoh utama berhasil melewati masa-masa sulitnya karena pertemanannya dengan Patrick dan Sam. Hal itu terlihat dari cara ketiganya berinteraksi dan Charlie yang menerima seluruh tipe dukungan sosial dari Patrick dan Sam. Charlie diberi hadiah, saran, hiburan, perhatian, cinta, hingga kepedulian. Dalam skripsi ini, peneliti pun menemukan bahwa kehadiran lingkungan sosial bagi Charlie, yang mengalami masa sulit, sangat memiliki dampak besar bahwa Charlie akhirnya bisa percaya diri, merasa dicintai oleh keluarga dan teman-temannya, mampu bergaul dengan orang lain di sekitarnya selain Patrick dan Sam, bahkan Charlie juga menegaskan bahwa dia akan mulai sibuk untuk berinteraksi dengan orang lain di dunia nyata. Dia menyebut, tidak akan begitu sering lagi menulis surat dan akan bergaul dengan orang lain.

Kata kunci: *dukungan sosial, lingkungan sosial, masa sulit, pengaruh sosial*

A. INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures. Humans cannot live alone and need each other. In the social environment, humans can also establish relationships. There are several examples of these forms of relationships such as family relationships, friendships, love relationships, and work relationships. Humans can also determine which relationships are comfortable for them and end up as close relationships. Thus making them have a quality of relationship and strong attachment compared to other people.

The emergence of a problem that befalls a person can be hard time to be faced. Hard times are usually dominated by sad moments. When people experience that kind of feeling, they need to overcome it. According to Tongeren, there are various ways for people to overcome their hard times (32). First, they might look for help and try to find comfort in the relationship they value the most, but some people also can choose a spiritual way or refer to their respective religious beliefs (Tongeren 32). From that statement, it can be seen that people who are experiencing hard times still need some help from other people.

From hard times, a problem starts to come up. Then, the presence of a problem can be triggered by a conflict. According to Potter, basically, a conflict can occur between the two parties. This can be influenced by differences of opinion or arguments (25). In general, conflict is common because it is part of human interaction. However, conflict does not always occur between the two parties but conflict can also occur within the individual (Potter 25). It means conflict is always found in the social environment. So a person must be able to overcome conflict in order to be free from problems and hard times

One of the literary works that portray the influence of the social environment is a novel written by Stephen Chbosky, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (1999). On

www.layout.com, there is an e-mail interview between Ann Beisch with Chbosky and he said that it took five years to finish the novel. Chbosky said that this novel is very personal to him, even though it is not necessarily autobiographical (Beisch and Chbosky n.pag.)

This journal discussed the influence of the social environment on Charlie's hard times in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel (1999) by Stephen Chbosky. Besides symbolic interactionism theory, there are also two supporting terms. The first one is social support by Schwarzert et al, it is all about four types of social support. They are instrumental, tangible, informational, and emotional. The second one is hard times by Tongeren. Mostly, sad moments will happen in hard times (Tongeren 32). So people need to find a way to overcome that from their relations because social relations are the source of meaning in life.

B. RELATED LITERATURE

1. Novel

According to Abel Chevalley in Forster, the novel can be defined as fiction in prose to a certain extent. Forster also said that the maximum of words in a novel is 50.000 words. From the statement, it means that novel is a prose in the kind of long narrative text. It will describe the fictional characters, the events that happened and those things that are related to the experience of someone's life such as social problems, culture, economics, and so on (Forster 8). The author of the novel will describe the atmosphere of the story with the actions and words of the characters.

2. Conflict

Conflict is also defined as a clash between the protagonist, the main character in a story, and an antagonist, something or someone introduced in opposition to the protagonist. Sometimes the antagonist is a villain, but more often, he or she simply reflects a different point of view or proponents a different course of action than the protagonist (Kirszner 67). According to Potter, conflict is a contradiction between at least two sides, such as one character with himself or another character. It means that conflict occurs when there is a difference of opinion or a contradiction between two parties or individuals (25). Conflict occurs when a person's need is not fulfilled. It is natural for humans to face the challenges that stand between their targets or visions, and when the fulfillment of human needs is completely impossible to achieve, that is the period when humans suffer conflict. To make this analysis more specific, the researcher focuses on two types of conflicts. They are internal conflict and external conflict.

Internal conflict is the issue that a character faces on the inside, and it affects on that character. Inner conflict is a personal battle within oneself. It means that internal conflict is an issue that a character faces that involves a personal opinion or decision (24-25). An example of internal conflict is man versus himself. Internal conflict is often referred to as man versus himself since the struggle is inside one's head.

The second one is Man vs Society where the character is pitted against society. It would occur if the character had a different perspective on ideas, culture, opinions, or

something similar to those in their society (Coser 219). The last one is Man vs Nature. It would happen if the character needs to face something related to a natural disaster or phenomenon (Coser 219). From the previous explanation, it can be concluded that internal conflict and external conflict are very different. Before the two types of conflict occur, the triggers are different because internal conflict comes from within the character and external conflict comes from the outside.

3. Plot

According to Robert and Jacobs, the plot is a story plan or foundation based on conflicting human motivations, with actions arising from relatable and accurate human responses (9). The existence of conflict will help a sequence of events to develop in a story. Through the conflict, the next action will be seen and explained in the plot. A plot consists of several parts. There is exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

The exposition is the first part of the plot. The beginning, or exposition, establishes the characters and setting. The novel's conflict or main problem is also introduced during this section. The exposition is the beginning of the story and a part where the readers are introduced to the characters. (Freytag 10-11).

In rising action, the problem or conflict will be arises within the story in this. A plot's rising action is a series of events that build up and create tension and suspense. This tension arises as a result of the basic conflict and adds to the intrigue of the story. (Freytag 10-11).

The climax is the part of the story that makes the readers want to know what happens next, and it is also the point at which all of the major action in the story comes to a head (Freytag 10-11). The conflict and the tension in a story also begin to emerge in this section.

The falling action refers to the actions and events that occur immediately after the climax. The problems start to unravel. In the sense that the loose ends are being tied up (10-11). As a result, the falling action follows that section of the story and portrays how those decisions affect the characters in the future.

The last is resolution. At this point, all of the problems that the characters encountered throughout the story have been resolved, and the story has come to an end. Resolution can also refer to the conclusion of the story. The conflicts are resolved here (Freytag 10-11).

4. Setting

Setting refers to the conditions that surround a story event, the universe that interacts with the events that occur. Setting can also refer to intangible factors, for example (day, month, or year), weather, or a historical period (Stanton 35). It means that setting deals with the 'where and when' of a story because it is related to time and place during a story.

5. Social Support

Social support is a term introduced by Schwarzer, Knoll, and Reickmann. The function and quality of social relationships, such as the perceived availability of help or

actual support received, are referred to as social support (2). According to Schwarzer et al, there are several types of social support that have been investigated before. The first one is instrumental. It means that assist with a problem that occurs by providing supportive things. Then tangible means by donating goods, informational means giving some advice to handle the problems, and the last is emotional by giving reassurance to others.

6. Hard Times

There is a term from Tongeren about hard times. According to Tongeren, life is also full of trying times. There are so many things that could happen in life. For example, the sad moments. When people experienced that kind of feeling, they need to overcome it. During hard times, people will rely on a variety of ways to overcome them. Some people choose a spiritual way or refer to their respective religious beliefs. Others try to find comfort in the relationship they value the most. Some did not respond positively. Finally, some individuals still feel burdened with sadness so they are less comfortable if they have to get close to others (32).

7. Symbolic Interactionism Theory

Symbolic interactionism theory focuses on how people interact with each other and create a meaning based on the interpretation. Symbolic interactionism theory convinces symbolic meaning when people are trying to develop themselves in the interaction process. When people already do the interaction, they might change the way to behave and act.

Basically, symbolic meaning comes from symbols, which act as necessary contingencies for the elicitation of intended meaning (Stewart 4). Meanwhile, interactionism examines how an individual behaves and makes decisions in response to their surroundings. The discussion of interactionism, in general, refers to what motivates one's actions (Blumer 40).

Through interactions or communications with other people, it is not only the behavior that will change but also the mindset as well. Most people will have a mindset about what they will do in the future and try to adjust their behavior depending on any situation. The act will be based on how those people interpret a word, symbol, or situation. So, it is influenced by the social environment and culture. Cooley stated that society and individuals are a set of ideas. According to him, society exists as a set of ideas among its members.

Cooley thought individuals and society should come together. Individuals or communities will interact through a communication or each individuality entered into the social order. A person's personality can develop if it depends on social life and communication between individuals. Wherever someone lives, they will always interact with other people. Someone's mindset will be formed by the thoughts of others because of these interactions. Meanwhile, a person's mindset towards others will be related and connected to emotions or sensitivity which is commonly called self-feeling.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

In research methodology, one of the types is commonly known as qualitative research methodology. This research aims to identify the influence of the social

environment on Charlie's hard times in Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel and use the qualitative research method and sociological approach. Qualitative research is a systematic and subjective approach to highlighting and explaining daily life experiences and to further give them a proper meaning (Burns and Grove in Mohajan 3).

The primary data of this research are words, sentences, dialogues, and paragraphs represented by the characters in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel which is related to the research questions. Meanwhile the secondary data of this research are books, articles, websites, journals, and other trusted sources for the research. The researcher used observation as the data collection technique and do it by the following steps.

First, the researcher read the novel comprehensively and also read the novel repeatedly. Second, the researcher rewrite all the data found and highlight them. The last, the researcher marked the page with bookmarks to make it easier to find that part again if it is missed. The researcher identified the conflicts that Charlie had during his hard times and finds out the ways of the social environment to help Charlie through his hard times by using symbolic interactionism theory.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Charlie's Conflicts in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* Novel

a. Exposition

The exposition is the beginning of a story. It consists of an introduction to the characters and setting. Exposition is very important because it is a part of the background information to understand the story (Freytag 10-11). From the data that the researcher found in this part, Charlie is known as a closed person and is not very interested in socializing.

I am writing to you because she said you listen and understand and didn't try to sleep with that person at that party even though you could have. Please don't try to figure out who she is because then you might figure out who I am. (Chbosky 2)

Charlie does not really like interacting with people so he often writes to express his feelings through the letters and he addressed that to an anonymous. After that, he feels better when expressing his feelings by writing some letters.

Charlie was not someone who had many friends. He is familiar as a closed person and does not really like to get involved with other people. The only friend he had in middle school was Michael.

In middle school Michael and I would go to the games sometimes even though neither of us were popular enough to go. It was just a place to go on Fridays when we didn't want to watch television. (Chbosky 18)

Charlie and Michael were good friends in middle school. It can be seen in the narration above through Charlie's letter on October 6, 1991. The setting also takes place in middle school where he knew Michael.

Charlie also stated that Helen was his favorite person. Helen was his mother's sister. Helen used to give Charlie books to read when he was a kid. Charlie enjoyed reading those books as well. It can be seen from the narration below through Charlie's letter on August 25, 1991 that also becomes the setting.

My Aunt Helen was my favorite person in the whole world. She was my mom's sister. She got straight A's when she was a teenager and she used to give me books to read. My father said that the books were a little too old for me, but I liked them so he just shrugged and let me read. (Chbosky 5)

Charlie loved Helen so much because Helen cared about him too. That is the reason why Charlie very comfortable with her and stated that Helen was his favorite person.

b. Rising Action

Charlie is known as a closed person and is not very interested in socializing. This is evidenced by his actions, which began with writing his first letter on August 25, 1991. The setting takes place at Charlie's home when he wrote down the letter. Through his letter, Charlie tried to tell the story of his life.

So, this is my life. And I want you to know that I am both happy and sad and I'm still learning to figure out how that could be. (Chbosky 2)

Although Charlie is still trying to figure out why his happy and sad feelings happened, he realizes that the only reason why he is still alive is because of his family's presence. The narration above proves the **internal conflict** within Charlie as he is wracking with his own thoughts. It is called **Man vs Himself**. It shows in the narration from his letter on August 25, 1991. Charlie uses his family as an excuse to stay alive.

When he had to enter a new environment, Charlie felt nervous and scared. He conveyed this in his letter, which he wrote on August 25, 1991. However, he realized that he had to do it anyway as he says. The setting takes place at school and home.

The reason I wrote this letter is because I start high school tomorrow and I am really afraid of going. (Chbosky 6)

Charlie was also triggered by the death of his best friend in middle school, Michael, who committed suicide by shooting his head. It sparked deep sadness for Charlie because Michael was the only friend he had. Charlie recounts how he first learned about Michael's death. The setting takes place at school on August 25, 1991. It becomes a **hard time** for Charlie. The gloomy atmosphere towards Charlie was very real in this section because of his sadness. It shows Charlie's **external conflict (Man vs Man)** with Michael.

.....especially after my friend Michael stopped going to school one day last spring and we heard Mr Vaughn's voice on the loudspeaker.

"Boys and girls, I regret to inform you that one of our students has passed on. We will hold a memorial service for Michael Dobson during assembly this Friday." (Chbosky 3)

On December 24, 1983, a police officer came to Charlie's house and told him that Helen had been in a car accident and that it was snowing. It is explained Charlie's **external conflict (Man vs Man)** with aunt Helen through the narration below that he expressed in his letter on December 26, 1991. The setting takes place at Charlie's home on Christmas night.

On December 24, 1983, a policeman came to the door. My aunt Helen was in a terrible car accident. It was very snowy. The policeman told my mom that my aunt Helen had passed away. He was a very nice man because when my mom started crying, he said that it was a very bad accident, and my Aunt Helen was definitely killed instantly. In other words, there was no pain. There was no pain anymore. (Chbosky 90)

Helen died in a car accident. He thought that Helen's death was his fault and it becomes a hard time for him. Charlie explains the chronology of events when Helen died. Charlie was very sad since Helen was his favorite person.

c. Climax

Charlie's mother even asked about his son's condition and if something is wrong. Charlie's mother also suspected the cause of his sadness because he remembered Aunt Helen. Helen's death on Charlie's seventh birthday is still vivid in his mind, and it happens every year so that was a **hard time** for him. It shows Charlie's **external conflict (Man vs Man)** with Helen proven in this dialogue through the letter. The setting takes time on December 25, 1991 at Charlie's room.

"Is it your aunt Helen?"

It was the way she said it that started me feeling.

"Please, don't do this to yourself, Charlie."

But I did do it to myself. Like I do every on year on my birthday.

"I'm sorry." (Chbosky 79)

Charlie stunned by the memory of Helen's death, he began to imagine what it would be like if he had not been born or slept for a thousand years. Charlie realized that the desire was terrible, but that thought came to him whenever he thought of Helen. It was a **hard time** for him. Charlie wanted to stop and think that if his condition got any worse, he should see a psychiatrist again. It proves Charlie's **external conflict (Man vs Man)** with Helen as he says in the narration through his letter. The setting takes time on December 30, 1991 at Charlie's room.

I don't know if you've ever felt like that. That you wanted to sleep for a thousand years. Or just not exist. Or just not be aware that you do exist. Or something like that. I think wanting that is very morbid, but I want it when I get like this. That's why I'm trying not to think. I just want it all to stop spinning. If this gets any

worse, I might have to go back to the doctor. It's getting that bad again. (Chbosky 93-94)

The narration above is part of the climax that Charlie experienced because he thought of committing suicide and he could not afford it because he still remembers the picture of the incident when Helen died. He also felt that his mental health was not good because there was an intention to go to a psychiatrist again.

d. Falling Action

Charlie eventually became good friends with Patrick and Sam. The three of them often spend time together. Patrick and Sam also invite Charlie to meet and get acquainted with other friends. A lot of the social support that Patrick and Sam provide for Charlie. Charlie also received social support. Gradually, Charlie's circle of friends grew and his friendships with Patrick and Sam grew stronger as well.

Everyone was friendly to me and asked me a lot of questions about myself. I guess because I was the youngest, and they didn't want me to feel out of place, especially after I said no to having a beer. I once had a beer with my brother when I was twelve and I just didn't like it. It's really that simple for me. Some of the questions I was asked was what grade I was in and what did I want to be when I grow up. (Chbosky 34)

Patrick and Sam also involve Charlie in another circle of friends. This happened at a party. Charlie was happy because the people were very friendly when they greeted him and asked Charlie a few questions.

e. Resolution

Patrick and Sam were Charlie's seniors, so it was time for both of them to graduate from high school. Meanwhile, Charlie still has to finish school because he is only in his first year. Patrick and Sam also plan to continue their studies outside the city.

So, by this time, everyone has finally figured out which schools he or she is going to next year. Patrick is going to the University of Washington because he wants to be near the music there. He says he thinks he wants to work for a record company someday. Maybe a publicist or a person who finds new bands. Sam finally made her decision to leave early for the summer program at the college of her choice. (Chbosky 168)

Charlie is saddened by the fact that he must say goodbye to Patrick and Sam, but he believes that the quality of his social environment has improved, and Charlie realizes that he, as an individual, must continue to interact with those around him even though Patrick and Sam no longer live with him.

2. The Social Environment Around Charlie and the Social Support Provided

After going through hard times with several conflicts, Charlie is finally able to get support from his new social environment. Charlie proved that he could adapt to other

people. This cannot be separated from the presence of Charlie's new friends, Patrick and Sam. Patrick and Sam also opened up greater opportunities for Charlie to be involved in his social environment. Their first conversation occurred while they were both watching American football.

Based on symbolic interactionism theory, there is a popular concept that says that the individual and society it cannot be apart because there will be no society without the individual. There is also no individual apart from society. That concept is portrayed in the following dialogue that he wrote in his letter on October 6, 1991.

Now, normally I am very shy, but Nothing seemed like the kind of guy you could just walk up to at a football game even though you were three years younger and not popular.

“Hey, you’re in my shop class!” He’s a very friendly person.

“I’m Charlie.” I said, not too shy.

“And I’m Patrick. And this is Sam.” He pointed to a very pretty girl next to him. And she waved to me.

“Hey, Charlie.” Sam had a very nice smile.

They both told me to have a seat, and they both seemed to mean it, so I took a seat. (Chbosky 19)

This can be seen when Charlie initially met Patrick and thought that Patrick was a friendly person. Then Charlie introduced himself, and Patrick's friendliness made him feel less shy. Unlike in the past, Charlie admitted to being pretty shy. Through that act, three of them interpret a situation when they were watching football game and use it to get to know each other.

a. The Portrayal of Charlie Gets Instrumental Social Support

Charlie received a lot of social support during his friendship with Patrick and Sam. The first type of social support is instrumental. The purpose of an instrumental is to assist in overcoming someone's problem by providing supporting items (Schwarzer et al. 2). This type of social support can be seen in the following narration from Charlie’s letter on October 28, 1991.

Sam told me during the game that they were going over to their friend’s house later for a party. Then, she asked me if I wanted to go, and I sad yes because I had never been to a party before. I had seen one at my house, tough. (Chbosky 29)

In this part, Sam invites Charlie to go to a party. That narration shows that Sam is trying to give Charlie an instrumental type of social support because Charlie admits he has never been to a party before. Here, Sam tries to overcome the problem of Charlie, who is known as a closed person and not very sociable, by being able to interact with many people at a party.

b. The Portrayal of Charlie Gets Tangible Social Support

The second type of social support is tangible. It means, tangible is social support by giving gifts or goods to someone (Schwarzer et al. 2). This type of social support can be seen in the following narration that Charlie wrote in his letter on December 21, 1991.

Everyone did. And he came out with three tubes of Pringles and a suit coat. And he walked up to me. And he said that all the great writers used to wear suits all the time. So, I put on the suit even though I didn't feel like I really deserved to since all I write are essays for Bill, but it was such a nice present, and everyone clapped their hands anyway. Sam and Patrick both agreed I looked handsome. Mary Elizabeth smiled. I think it was the first time in my life I ever felt like I looked "good." (Chbosky 67)

It can be seen that Charlie gets tangible social support from Patrick and Sam by giving him a Christmas gift, which is a suit coat. This social support helps Charlie become more confident.

c. The Portrayal of Charlie Gets Informational Social Support

The purpose of informational social support is to provide advice and suggestions when dealing with someone's problems (Schwarzer et al. 2). Charlie also gets that social support from his friends. It can be seen in the following dialogue from Charlie's letter that he wrote on January 14, 1992.

"What's wrong, Charlie?"

I told them what was wrong, which prompted Patrick to keep asking me if I had a "bad trip."

"No. No. It's not that." I was really getting upset.

Sam put her arm around my shoulder, and she said she knew what I was going through. She told me I shouldn't worry about it. Once you do it, you remember how things looked on it. (Chbosky 101)

Sam asked Charlie what was wrong with him to make his day so bad. However, Sam immediately calmed Charlie down and told Charlie that she knew what he was getting into. Sam also advised him not to worry about what Charlie was dealing with.

d. The Portrayal of Charlie Gets Emotional Social Support

Based on data collected by the researcher, Charlie received the most of this type of social support from his friends. It can be seen in the narration from Charlie's letter on October 14, 1991.

Sam then gave me a hug, and it was strange because my family doesn't hug a lot except my aunt Helen. But after a few moments, I could smell Sam's perfume, and I could feel her body against me. (Chbosky 22)

It can be seen that the hug that Sam gave Charlie was to show his care and concern as a friend. It proves emotional support. Moreover, Charlie mentioned that his family did not make hugs as something to do, except for his aunt, Helen. Through this hug, Sam gave Charlie support, so he was calmer.

E. CONCLUSION

After describing internal and external conflicts, the researcher found that Charlie's hard times were identified mostly in external conflicts. But the influence of Charlie's social environment also had a big impact that Charlie can finally be confident, feel loved by his family and friends, and be able to get along with other people around him besides Patrick and Sam. Charlie has also stated that he will begin to become preoccupied with interacting with other people in real life. He said he would not write letters so often anymore. The researcher found that Charlie's social interactions could lead him to make new friends with Patrick and Sam. The behavior of Patrick and Sam toward Charlie also changed his mind because according to the symbolic interactionism theory, an individual cannot be separated from society. In addition, Charlie also received four types of social support from his friends. They are instrumental, tangible, informational, and emotional.

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