CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Type of identity changes experienced by Maqil

As informed in chapter I, there are several types of identity changing experienced by Maqil. This chapter will discuss about finding information in the novel. After reading the novel, this research finds that Maqil's identity is changing in some aspects; those are Names, Performances, and Background.

4.1.1 Names

During the plot in the novel, Maqil has his original name that given by his family, and his given name has a history. Maqil's name history can be seen as below:

> *I was named Sonny by my mother. I was named Sunny by my father. I was named Maqil Karam by my family, and since then I have had many others names, of my own choosing. I was the firstborn son, hatched into a house built on duty and filled with romance, a house that celebrate the living and rejected the dead (2012: 26).*

Data above shows Maqil's explanation about himself. Maqil gives explanation about his name as Maqil Karam. His first name, Maqil, is a name from Pakistani tradition because in Pakistan a first son in every family will be named by Maqil. While Karam was his family name. On the other hand, Maqil is called Sunny by his father because he expects that Maqil was born to be a great person in his family. Every father has great expectation to his son, and Maqil's father hopes he can shine like a sun and get his own achievement. Maqil also get another

nickname from his mother as Sonny. She calls that name spontaneously a moment after his birth she is very happy to see her first born son. From that time his mother calls him Sonny to shows the love of a mother to his son.

Maqil has various names both given by his friends and relatives as well by himself. He states "I have had many others names, of my own choosing." In purpose to give information of his register identity, Maqil think he could add or chose name that he prefers. Therefore Maqil chooses his name to shows that he had various identities. His first and main identities are the fact that Maqil is first born son with a responsible to make his family full of joy. It can be seen through his statement "I was the firstborn son, hatched into a house built on duty and fulfilled with romance a house that celebrate the living and rejected the dead". Maqil's family in Pakistan is a kind of family which always rejoices happiness so that each family will give a celebration to their child when they was born and survive.

Maqil's early life or his past is influenced by his family tradition. From that given name, Maqil receives impact that he is known as Maqil a member of Karam's family. Therefore Maqil's character is determined by the past. Later on Maqil has intention to have other names and choose it by himself. He does that thing because he wants to establish his new chosen identity. To achieve his purpose, Maqil moves to America. In America Maqil does not use his Pakistani name because he got new names as stated in data below:

> *He [Maqil] is renamed for his new world, and in 1950s New York he has begun to mask his past behind wittily appropriate initials. He is known simply as MSK, his polished shoes clicking authoritatively through the campus at Columbia, hair*

> *short and sharp, ablaze with ideas for improving the world. (2012:36)*

In 1950s America is in post World War II and experiences Cold War, but a lot of people went to America, precisely New York. As mention in http://www.archives.gov (2016) that New York Economical condition is recovered and started to grow. When economic condition is in good condition, America begins to spread their influence to other nation by producing many motion pictures. They put their anti-communist ideology to many motion pictures and spread them around the world. Their motion pictures also reach Pakistan when at the same time Pakistan political condition is in unstable condition; they just begin to build their nation after separates with India.

In Pakistan, America's influence toward Pakistan people through motion pictures. They are easily accepted because they think America was different with British. Pakistani knows that the civil war between Pakistan and India caused by British intervention, therefore Pakistani do not like things about British. Bad sentiment toward British is also influencing Maqil, since he wants to continue his study abroad. There are various options for Maqil to continue his study abroad, however, the good quality schools are located in British, such as Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh etc. but Maqil does not make British as his destination. He prefers to go to America than British

Maqil choose to study in America because he loves American movie since he was child and it is his dream to study there. He has told his uncle that "I want to learn to drive. When I go to America, I'm going to drive a Cadillac." (2012: 28) Maqil says about driving a Cadillac, because it is an American car and it has

prestige in Maqil's opinion. Maqil know about Cadillac in American movie. Maqil begin to like things about America, such as Movies, Cars, etc. He begins to act like American actor and learns to speak in English. Maqil decides to pursue his dream after finished his school in Pakistan by leaving his homeland and going to America.

Maqil choose his study in New York and left everything about his Pakistani life. Maqil reinvent himself in his college and receives new names from his new environment. It could be seen from the quotation, "*He is renamed for his new world, and in 1950s New York he has begun to mask his past behind wittily appropriate initials.*" Maqil's reaction on that is not giving his full name to others, and only gave his initial. It can be seen in this quotation "He is known simply as MSK. Maqil give his initial name to others shows that Maqil wanted to hide his past. He also establishes a new identity with his physical appearance. He becomes someone new that "…his polished shoes clicking authoritatively through the campus at Columbia, hair short and sharp, ablaze with ideas for improving the world." From then, he is not Maqil Sunny Karam anymore; He is MSK, a new student in campus.

Maqil's character is known through his reputation as has been described above. The description has shown Maqil's intention or motive by changes his name into MSK. This happens in order to hide his past and background. He also wants people in his campus recognize him with his reputation by giving his initial when someone asked his name. Eventually, Maqil's new appearance makes him famous around the campus. He becomes popular, because everyone asking about his name

and his origin country. Yet, at a same time, his identity also establishes by his behavior, it can be seen in this quotation below:

> *MSK is the campus international man of mystery, and the question everyone asks is simply, "Where is he from?" they puzzled over it, as he knows everyone and is intimate with no one. They pieces together clues. His name is Mike, although the girls who harbor romantic intentions towards him prefer to say Mikey, and use it possessively to mark their territory: "I'll be seeing Mikey at the Bistro tonight." Or at the gallery, the lecture, the screening of Elia Kazan's On the Waterfront. He doesn't offer his surename, and even signature is MSK and, as a result, easily forged. He doesn't carry ID: "everyone knows who I am . . ." he says with innocent vanity, and with less innocence adds, "and if they don't, they should." (2012:37)*

Maqil's identity as MSK is popular but a great mystery. His friends in campus are curious on his identity so that they ask same question about him over and over, "Where is he from?"In the first time, Maqil introduces himself to his fellow students in his first dorm with real name, Maqil. But when he said 'Maqil', they inevitably reply 'Michael'? Hey, great to meet you, Mike." (2012: 39). Maqil's friend thinks that his name is Michael because Maqil and Michael are pronounced almost similar to foreigners.

Thus, they call him Mike as his nickname. Yet, some of his friends, mostly girls, call him Mikey as shown in "I'll be seeing Mikey at the Bistro tonight."Maqil get the nickname from the girls differently because in their eyes Maqil is so movie star-like in real life with his tanned skin, superbly white teeth. Therefore the girls in campus are admiring and in love with Maqil; they give him a nickname as Mikey because it sounds friendly and cute. Next, Maqil known as Mikey is getting popular and it turns that his friends prefer to call him Mikey than

MSK. This is happened because Maqil says when he is asked by others “everyone knows who I am . . .” as his reply. It shows that Maqil identities as Michael, Mike and Mikey are popular. So that, he thinks that he has become famous around the campus and everyone ever heard about him. He adds that if they do not know about him, they need to ask other students.

The quotation above shows that Maqil’s identity is not only created by himself but also illustrated from his friend’s description; they gather some information about Maqil from his behavior and performance. Maqil begin to avoid giving his surname, and use his initial as signature. With his reputation and behavior that is described in the quotation, Maqil has some identities; there are life history, observation, social network identity. Maqil’s life history identity as a man who is full of mystery establishes through explanation by people around his environment, in this case, his campus.

The people of Columbia University do not know about his past; therefore they only could guess about his past. Then Maqil observation identity is established from the description on his appearance, his occupation and his skill. Then the quotation tell that how Maqil’s appearance is changing and his occupation was a student in at Columbia University but his skill is not mentioned in that quotation. Then his social network identity is established during his relationship with his friends and his people in Columbia as Mike. He acts that he was known by everyone in Columbia when they ask his name, and he avoids to give detail information about himself.

A new behavior in Maqil's college life make him establishes a new identity, his past identity as a Pakistani man is covered by his new identity and never revealed to his friends. Those are his intention since the beginning. Not only in America, in his college life, after his study is finished, Maqil's name also changes in France. He choose France because he has visited France once, as stated in the quotation "Maqil always liked France; it was a country he had toured during his long student vacations, in the old days when he was known as MSK or Mike" (2012:59). Maqil has visited France when was student then he choose to come back to France when he finished his study. In France, Maqil also experiences names changing

> *MSK or Mike or Michel as he often called in France by the locals, the 'ch' shushed softly to give it alluring, almost feminine tone to those with an Anglophone ear, surprisingly and undeservedly appears to live with an unclouded conscience too. (2012:61)*

As mentioned previously that Maqil has visited France once, he spends his vacation by taking a job as political correspondent for a national paper. He is sent there to seek out and record about the formenting crises (2012:51). During the job, he also spends his time to casino in France to gamble. Maqil loves to gamble because it give pleasure and left a good impression for him. Therefore, he wants to back to France after finished his study. During his job as political correspondent he use name as Michael or Mike then he introduces his name to people in France. However, Maqil's name also changes in France because he is called by local people in as Michel, "MSK or Mike or Michel as he often called in France by the locals". Maqil's name changing to Michel in France is based by

local culture because they have a cultural name, such as Arsene, Charline, Gisele, Joanne, Laurent, as well Michel. etc. (www.behindthename.com) Thus, Michel was their cultural name. When Maqil came to France as Mike, he introduced himself to local people in a name of Mike but they thought Mike is hard to pronounce. Therefore, they decided to call him as Michel.

From the quotation, Maqil visited France, as MSK or Mike, but his name is changing from Mike to Michel, because the people in France call his name by a local name accidentally. The intention from this changing is the people in France could not say his name properly so they call Mike as Michel. This event gives an impact to Maqil in the future. The identity changing that happened to him is Life history identity, Maqil has story about his name, it is established when he go to France, and it is told other source beside him. Maqil has social network identity because there is information about Maqil's identity from his environment, from this case, his environment is the people around him when he staying in France. Maqil also has interaction with people in France, and that interaction make a changing to his name.

From the description above, Maqil's identity changes through his name by having different names such as, Michael, Mike, Mikey, and Michel. The names change because his identity is formed by his new environment. For the first time Maqil actually have introduced his real name but people around him were misheard and used different pronunciation. Knowing those misunderstandings, Maqil does not reject those names, in contrary he accepts the name and used it as his new identity.

4.1.2 Performances

Not only in his name, Maqil's identity also changing through his performance: physical appearance, habits and behavior. Maqil's performance changing is showed in a quotation below:

> *The one thing that everyone knows for certain is that MSK or Mike, or Mikey, is not American. His English is so correct that he has to be foreign, and he slips between an Oxbridge and East Coast accent with the case of moving between foreign languages. He speak fluent French and German, but that doesn't mean he is European, as after his first step degree at Yale he claims to have spent a year in Switzerland. No one else speak French and German well enough to ascertain whether he might be a native. His skin is tan enough for people to wonder whether he is South American, but his Spanish accented and patchy-though knowing Mike as only you and I do, it is possible that he putting this on to his admirers.(2012: 38)*

People thought that Maqil is not an American. It is fact because Maqil originally came from Pakistan. Some people often mistake Pakistan with India because of the appearances. Actually, Pakistan is a nation that separated from India in 1946 and it made differentiation in culture with Indian's culture. According to www.defence.pk (2009) there can be seen in several aspects, in fashion, for example, Pakistani used Shalwar Kamiz—a dress which commonly used by men and women in Pakistan and the different is women used veil or hijab in their head. In food Pakistani have more options because they could eat beef but do not eat pork or bacon; and in architecture they used Pakistan architecture combined with Islamic style.

Maqil is described as someone who speaks English fluently but he was not native. From the accent, Maqil's English was stuck between Oxbridge—refer to Oxford and Cambridge dialects—this term used to show that someone has

implications of superior social or intellectual status. He also shows East Coast accent, this meant that accent was used by people who lived in East Coast of United States. It is commonly used in the area that also known as Eastern seaboard—Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and also New York. Such condition made Maqil to have unique pronunciation.

Maqil also speaks French and German but he is not European. Some of his friends think he is like a person who spent his year in Switzerland. Maqil's friends know that people in Switzerland are using four national languages there are French, German, Italian and Romansh. Therefore they think Maqil's dialect is unique. His friends in Columbia think that Maqil had spent his time in Switzerland, it is because he is able to speak both French and German fluently. From his appearance Maqil is like South American because of his tanned skin. South American had tanned skin because of tropical climate, it meant that they have enough sunlight and fine weather. Although Maqil's appearance was like South American, his Spanish accent is not good enough but it can make him known by his colleagues in Columbia.

Maqil performs himself with many ways, he combines Oxbridge accent and east coast accent. He also uses other language beside English; he can speak French, German, and Spanish. This is showing that he intends to cover his nationality, but in the first time he arrives in America he tells people that he was from Pakistan. Somehow, it seemed that people rarely heard about Pakistan that is a small state carved out of the left and right of India (2012: 39). Maqil intention to

change his identity is showing through his accent that he used, and makes people misunderstood. From the language accent, Maqil gain his reputation; when he used Oxbridge accent, he looks like a person from superior social or intellectual status. His friend in Columbia thinks that he come from east coast because his slipped in accent. Then from his physical appearance, Maqil has similar skin with people in South America, such as Brasil, Argentina, Chile, etc. people from those countries has exotic skin because of the tropical climate. Those countries are having warm climate that come from it geography position in tropical area.

From his appearance, Maqil gains his observation identity that comes from his description in "His English is so correct that he has to be foreign, and he slips between an Oxbridge and East Coast accent with the case of moving between foreign languages." It describes that his friends see Maqil through his behavior which is the using of dialect or accent, from the accent he intended to conceal his nationality from others. Then Maqil also has social network identity because his reputation for a person who used unique accent is spread in Columbia University and the other know him through the information about the unique accent which is gained around the campus. From the quotation, appearance that Maqil performed in front of his friend gave his reputation that represent himself as different person. The person who gives his opinion about Maqil is Ted Peterson, He is one of Maqil's friends. Ted and Maqil can be say has a good relationship because Maqil often meets with him. this is happened because Maqil sometime sends his work to student paper which Ted is working there as the editor. Therefore Ted knows

about Maqil and he is giving his opinion about Maqil performance. The data could be seen in the quotation below:

> *'He's an A-rab from Morocco,' says Ted Peterson to the young men with sweaters; Ted is the editor of the student paper that MSK occasionally contributes to. 'He told me that he one had a summer job working for a paper in Marrakesh, and got fired for writing about the corruption in local politics. And A-rabs are Muslims; they don't eat ham or bacon either.'(2012: 39)*

The quotation is about Ted opinion when he argued Susie Santinie Maqil's girlfriend—about Maqil's identity. She thinks that Maqil is a Jew from Biarritz's as stated in "he must be Jewish he wouldn't have ham or bacon with his egg at breakfast." (2012: 38). Ted explains that Maqil is an Arab from Morocco because he looks like a Mediterranean with his tanned skin. Ted thinks him as Moroccan because Maqil tells him that he ever worked for the local paper in Marrakesh. From the information that Maqil tells him, he assumes Maqil is Muslim because majority of people in Morocco are Muslim. Muslim also has similar rule with Jew when they eat, they did not eat pork. Such behavior is seen in Maqil, he also does not eat ham or bacon because Muslims are forbidden to eat those. Therefore Ted Peterson make a conclusion that Maqil was a Muslim from Morocco.

Ted Peterson's perception on Maqil is based on his observation on Maqil's identity through his physical appearance and behavior. Ted also assumes that Maqil is an honest person, because Maqil says that he got fired when he wrote about corruption issue in Marrakesh local politics. Ted thinks when someone boldly informed government injustice to public he must be a courage person who dares to against the government.

Ted has observed Maqil for a long time, and make assumption from Maqil's daily behaviors. One obvious behavior is Maqil's behavior in choosing meal; Ted know that in western countries, when students have a breakfast or lunch they are always gather in cafeteria to get some foods. According to www.pcrm.org(2012) half of the school in America serve ham and eggs for breakfast and mostly of them serve bacon, sausage and other processed meats. From that information, it is understandable if Ted aware when Maqil never choose ham or bacon for his breakfast or lunch in campus.

From the description, Maqil gains social network identity because his friend gives information about him, especially on Maqil's appearance and behavior. Those who interact with him, in this case Susie Santini and Ted Peterson were able to describe Maqil's identity though it is based on their own perceptions. Even though his friends have misunderstood him as an Arabs but his Muslim identity was right. He is a kind, honest and courage man. He also maintain his Muslim principle by not consume pork; however, Maqil is still tempted to do something that interest him like gambling.

He began to like gambling when he come to New York for the first time, and become his new behavior. Maqil goes to casino in Las Vegas for gambling and making money.

> *Maqil is about to discover his calling after all. He and his girlfriend, Susie Santini, are going on a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada. He always like gambling: he goes to the races in New York, shivering at the first meet in his fashionable but in adequate topcoat; he plays poker in dimly lit back rooms; he even played chess for money.(2012:41)*

From the quotation, Maqil has gone to Las Vegas because, in America, it is famous for its night life and gambling. There were many casinos and hotels to accommodate the gambler who come to Las Vegas. Night life and gambling have become part of Las Vegas primary entertainment that bring people came to spend their money. Moreover, in Las Vegas gambling is legitimate business. Such condition makes people free to earn and spend their money for any kind of pleasure.

Maqil has never seen a place like casino in Pakistan, because he never knows its existence. Actually he may also be able to find a casino in his hometown, but his tradition and principles in his society covers him from such places. It is caused him to have curiosity and make him to have an interest to come to Las Vegas. A statement of "he has never entered a palace of money like this before, an oasis in the desert where cold hard cash pours out from the slot like water"(2012:42) shows that Maqil could easily get money in casino. He can get easy money in casino by playing slot machine, roulette, and others which will give him lots of money. Then he also can play poker in casino table to defeat the other player where he can double his few dollar became hundred dollars in short time.

Since his visit to casino, Maqil become to like gambling and tries every game in casino. It can be seen from this quotation "He always like gambling: he goes to the races in New York, shivering at the first meet in his fashionable but in adequate topcoat; he plays poker in dimly lit back rooms; he even played chess for money(2012: 41). From that quotation, Maqil begins new behavior even changes his performance to support his new behavior. After he becomes a gambler, he

could get money easily then to support his performance he tries to look fashionable by wearing good clothes. He gambles for everything: bet in races, poker and play chess for money.

Maqil's gambling activities have become his reputation in Columbia, he is known as a man who likes to play games for money. From his reputation he is known having good skill in gambling and it make him gains the observation identity. His identity has shown trough his new behavior: Maqil learn how to gamble, for the first time he startes with small things, from play chess, bet in races then finally he plays poker in casino and often go to casino in Las Vegas.

Maqil establishes an identity; he is a Muslim but he loves to gamble. Maqil still practices his Muslim rule but in the same time he gambles to get money. As a Muslim, Maqil know that he should not gamble, Muslim teaching actually forbids gambling because it is entrust the luck to a card, dice, or etc. in this case Maqil only implements his Muslim behavior in several aspects not in all aspects in his daily life.

4.1.3 Backgrounds

Maqil's identity not only changes through his name and performance, it also changes through his background. His background as a Pakistani man changes several times and aims to hide his true identity. Maqil background change can be seen in this quotation below:

> *My father's family had a tradition where each eldest son was named Maqil; and so I was named Maqil, as was my father, as was the first child of each and every uncle. The result of so many Maqils was that no one used this name at all, and the many*

> *Maqils went by our family names instead, our pet names, our childhood-nonsense non-Maqil nickname. (2012:20)*

From the quotation, Maqil original background can be seen that his father family had a tradition to give each eldest son name as Maqil. Therefore Maqil stated "My father's family had a tradition where each eldest son was named Maqil;so I was named Maqil, as was my father, as was the first child of each and every uncle.". His name become Maqil like his father because his father also eldest son in family. However, that name was also use by every first child in his hometown. As the result people who have name as Maqil are so many, in one family, they will have several Maqils because of the tradition.

That tradition is represented family identity which came from the family discourse and has practiced in each generation. *"The result of so many Maqils was that no one used this name at all, and the many Maqils went by our family names instead, our pet names, our childhood-nonsense non-Maqil nickname."* Because of that tradition, the child named Maqil does not use it as their name in daily life. They use other name to distinguish themselves to others. For example, Maqil Sunny Karam, in his hometown he uses Sunny as his nickname. He calls Sunny by his family. That name not only for a children, it also given to pet, could be say there were so many Maqil.

Maqil original background is his tradition as a Pakistani and as a Karam family. This background use when he is in Pakistan and known as Sunny. The quotation tells an event that makes impact to Maqil, he has given name which the name is come from his family tradition. The event makes impact not only to Maqil but to other family that have the same name; they do not call each other

with Maqil nickname. Those events are also original background to him and from the background, Maqil establishes register identity because he has told about his name, birth place, and register residence. Maqil gets his authentication identity which is contained his register name, and family information. Then Maqil also gets life history identity, when he tells his story about his past life he delivers some information about him that made him establishes an identity.

Maqil's backgrounds as Pakistani are hidden when Maqil at New York. He is in New York to study and chose Columbia University for his college. When Maqil in college his identity is changing accidentally because of his performance, his friends has wrong impression about him. They have various though about where he comes from, whether he is from France, Morocco, South Americas or Middle Eastern. But no one of his colleagues knew about his origin country. In New York Maqil began to hide his background it could see from this quotation:

> *And gradually he began to like the freedom of being Mike, an anonymous man who could be from anywhere. An anywhere man with his everywhere accent, freed from family, from nationality, from religion, from every tiresome box or cage that these might imply. The dull chains of familial duty that had once bound him had expanded and thinned away to almost nothing. (2012:39)*

That was happened when Maqil was introducing himself to his roommate, actually he said that his name was Maqil but his friend misheard about his name and replied "Michael? Hey great to meet you Mike.". Since then Maqil began to like that name and he also though that from that name he feel a freedom for being Mike. Michael name is popular in America according to www.behindthename.com in 1950 America's population was 160,697,361 and New York's population was 7,891,957 and people who have name Michael is

3.5% therefore there are 276,218 people. Not only in America or New York Michael name also use all over the world but it in different pronunciation such as Mikael (Swedish), Mikael, Mikkel (Norwegian), Mikael, Mikkel (Danish), Michael, Maikel, Michiel (Ducth), Michel, Michael (French) and etc. Maqil thinks he could freely became another person with changing his name, it is stated in this quotation "And gradually he began to like the freedom of being Mike, an anonymous man who could be from anywhere.".Maqil thinks that a person with name Michael can be comes from everywhere and he also can set up his background for his name in order to hide his original background. When Maqil decides to change his name as Michael, Maqil choose a right background for that name because a name can represent many things such as a culture, tribe, even nationality.

When Maqil changes his name and his performance, he also makes a new background to his new identity to cover some information about his past life. Maqil does that when he in different country. It can be seen in the quotation below:

> *Take this cap Mehmet, a character he has designed for himself, like a modern day avatar in a game; he had picked a good Middle Eastern name, popular in Egypt, because that is where Mehmet works and lives. As far his colleagues and neighbors are aware, the Middle East is where the man they know as Mehmet is from, (2012: 49)*

From the quotation Maqil changes his name into Mehmet when he in Egypt, he from the quotation "he had picked a good Middle Eastern name, popular in Egypt, because that is where Mehmet works and lives." He picks name as Mehmet

because it is popular in Egypt and it is a suitable name for a Middle East person. He actually thinks about which name that will he uses in Egypt, that name come spontaneously, when he still thinks about it, from this quotation “a fondness for the initial M in his chosen pseudonyms: M for me, myself, mine.”

He is crafting the story of his own life, and is disappointed that the story is no longer as daring as heroic as it once promised to be.(2012: 49)”. He liked his M initial because he thinks that could make a story in his life. He begin to make a new story about his life, but it begin disappointed to him when the story do not come to his expectation. In Egypt, Maqil begin to introduce himself as Mehmet to people in there like stated in this quotation “. As far his colleagues and neighbors are aware, the Middle East is where the man they know as Mehmet is from,” Maqil make people in Egypt aware about him as Mehmet and recognize that he come from Egypt. Therefore he begins to establish a new identity with his new background.

Maqil tells about his intention when he choose a name as Mehmet, choosing a name which was become a common in Middle East people, therefore he can easily blends with people in Egypt. Then he uses the past to make his background, when he changes his name as Mehmet he creates a background that could cover himself, making a story about Mehmet that come from Egypt, and has been worked and lived in there for a long time. From that information, Maqil establishes life history identity that tells about his background as Mehmet to people in Egypt. His background is created by himself and he uses it to introduce himself. Then Maqil

creates his social network identity which he is giving self narration about his chosen background.

Names, performances and background are identity aspects that Maqil changes. These are happened because of some factors. Then the factor will be described in next sub chapter.

4.2 Factors that make Maqil changes his identity

There are some factors that make Maqil change his identity. Those factors are coming from Maqil's environment. There are some factors in Maqil's environment that caused his identity changing. In this case, those are his family, education and job.

4.2.1 Family

Maqil was born in a Pakistani family, according from the previous description (see page 27); Karam's family can be said as Pakistani, because they have been domiciled in Pakistan since their first ancestor. They gain their nationality as a Pakistani because they choose to stay in that country and also involve to some political events. Due to the facts, they have a right as Pakistan citizen. Karam's family is also accepting Pakistani culture as part of them.

> *Perhaps this is way I valued these virtues so little when I was older. But I do not blame or credit my parent for what I became; I never have, and I never will. I am Sonny the survivor, and I wasted little time in shrugging off my family golden legacy, out of duty and affection, but I have still carried a small part of my heritage with me, throughout my wayward life. (2012:26)*

From the quotation, Maqil accepts that he is becoming part of Karam's family and do not deny it, because his family's kindness since he was a little boy. In the story, it is told that Maqil has a twin brother when he was born; but then his brother does not survive. His parent is so upset, but happy at the same time, that they do not lost Maqil. Thus, they put their hope to Maqil. Since he is the only son who has been survived, his father called "Sonny" as the one and only son, although his real name is Maqil Sunny Karam. Therefore Maqil states that *"but I do not blame or credit my parent for what I became; I never have, and I never will"*. He says that because he could not choose which family that he wanted to, so that no one to be blamed for that situation.

As a consequence, he shall accept his identity as a Pakistani and Karam's family. He gains his identity from his family as a Karam and become their heir. His identity as Karam's family may give him advantages because it has a high reputation and known as a rich family who has well grown business. Yet when he grows older he decides to choose his own life and slowly forgot the path as Karam's heir. Then, as his rebellion, Maqil actually rejects the tradition from Karam's family by his absence in his father's funeral.

Although Maqil rejects to become successor of his parent, Maqil is still carried a little part of his family heritage in his life. There are some etiquettes that he learnt from his father: respecting older people, calling people with their title than their surname, conducting daily prayer—though he only prays twice rather than five and as a habit rather than his responsibility as a Muslim. Maqil still do that to respect his family who was taking care of him since a little child. It likely Maqil

still do not want to forget his first identity that he gains from his family. The event when Maqil was born in the Karam's family is part of his past which makes impact to him. This impact gives him a family identity and his nationality.

> *My parent taught me this: that to live is to be celebrated, and to die is to be forgotten, and that it is breath alone that inspires love. And I never forgotten, that he love her. A hard, shining fact, glittering like a crystal shard in the dust, like pearl of teeth set in the gums, vulnerable and vicious all at once. (2012:27)*

From the quotation, Maqil remember what his parent has taught that he shall value his life. From his parent, he knows that people live to celebrate many things in their life mostly precious events like birth and marriage. Then when the people die they will be forgotten. It means his family loved their life and did not want to die or be forgotten by other, so that they love everyone not only their family members. Maqil describe it in when he stated *"And I never forgotten, that he love her. A hard shining fact, glittering like a crystal shard in the dust, like pearl of teeth set in the gums, vulnerable and vicious all at once."*. Maqil knows that his father really loved his mother so much. It shows when Maqil tells about how they love each other. His parent loves each other like they would do anything to protect a precious thing with their life. Maqil's father loves his wife because she has been given him a son as his heir. Yet in the beginning the love is not existed because Maqil's parents were married through a marriage arrangement.

However, through his family, Maqil learns about celebrating every part of life as part of Pakistani tradition. That is the value became Karam's family that made him loves to celebrate his life. It becomes his identity that gained from his family. From his mother Maqil learns that he should loves himself like his mother love

him. She loves Maqil so much, and then she feels him as her sun. From the moment when Maqil was born as Karam, the name became a heritage from generation to generation from his father side. It can be said that Karam's family use patriarchal culture which is a family constructed from father line.

Karam's family adopts patriarchal culture, in that family, Father and the first son have dominant role in the family. In Karam's family, the oldest has responsibility to guide whole family. Not only the nuclear family, he also has responsibility to whole extended family. The oldest one means the father or first son. The reason why first son has that responsibility because he will took over the leadership when his father passed away. Such condition is showed in Maqil's father. He is the first son in his family; therefore he takes role as head of Karam's family. His father's responsibility as a family leader will descend to Maqil and it made him burdened. He respects his father but he do not want to become a leader in his family. Thus, when his father passed away he even not shows his presence among whole family. Such condition is normal in mostly country in south Asia which use patriarchal culture; it means that males have dominant role in the family and society or politic. Pakistani families prefer a son than a daughter because they believe a son would be a better successor than a daughter. Therefore when their wives give birth to a daughter, they are not making any celebration as to a boy. It means men have more social status and valued than women.

Related to that Maqil as the oldest son, someday he shall take over the leadership from his father and prepares for that moment. Before his father passed away, Maqil's father concerns to his son education since Maqil is prepared to

become Karam's family leader. He put Maqil in the best school in town, then he could choose freely where he wanted to continue his education. Maqil choose to study in America, but then Maqil's decision to study abroad becomes blunder. Maqil choose that way he realizes about something that will change his thinking about his family. Maqil's thinking is influenced his by identity which also affected by his education.

4.2.2 Education

Beside affected by his family, Maqil's identity is also affected by his education. Pakistani families prioritize their son than their daughter in family. Parents also concern to their son's education. Boy gets better education than a girl because a boy is prepared to become a leader by his parents. Therefore, a boy can continue his study to the university.

As a son in Pakistani family, Maqil receives better education from his family. He is becoming a student in best school in his hometown. Then when he finish school in Pakistan Maqil's parent give him freedom to choose where he want to continue his education. Then Maqil choose to study in America.

> *Sunny might have finished school with soaring grades, and swiftly thereafter achieved an internationally valid driving license with his ill-gotten driving lessons, but his real education just beginning. Everyone reinvents themselves in college, and let loose in the Land of the Free, Sunny is no different.(2012:37)*

Maqil has finished his study in Pakistan with a high score. With the result which he gets in his school, it can be said that he was a smart student during his school. He also gets his international driving license but his driving skill is not

good enough to pass the driving exam. There is a possibility that he pays the examiner to pass the driving exam. Maqil definitely choose the easiest way to achieve his goal. Passing his education in Pakistan is only the beginning to begin his new life.

Maqil's real education is started when he leave Pakistan, he knows that in the outside country he will face the situation completely different with Pakistan. Majority of Pakistani is Muslim so they do Islamic practice in their daily life. As a Pakistani and a Muslim, Maqil also do that practice in his life. By studying abroad, Maqil learns that American is different than his people in Pakistan. When someone moves to the different country, he/she will surprise when know that country has different culture. Such a thing also happens to Maqil, he surprise when he know that America was completely different than Pakistan. The freedom of American amazes Maqil so that he thinks he could left behind everything about him and become a new person in a free country such America. For now he do everything that he wanted to, he does not need to worry about his Muslim practice. No one knew that he does Muslim practice so that they know; they will not interrupt his life in America because they are respecting people freedom.

Without he realizes it, Maqil begin to experience changes in him. Previously, he uses to act as a Pakistani who can not deliver his idea freely. Since he has to prioritize elder's opinion in order shows respect to them. Now, he is in America where every thought can easily accept without seeing that he/she is older or younger because in America people are equal to each others. Such condition make

Maqil's thoughts are more open after he receives an America's education during his college. It can be said that Maqil's education has establishes his identity.

> *He is vain, it is true, but just as much of his vanity is intellectual – he thinks he might be the cleverest man he knows. If he'd been born in America, and was willing to work hard enough, he could be president. He thinks he could even be a genius; he dare to says this out loud on occasion (2012: 40)*

Maqil thinks he is in a worst condition because he was born as a Pakistani. As a Pakistani he is tied by many rules that make him left behind with other people from different country. He feels Pakistan is not a suitable country for a smart person like him. His thought and opinion never get accepted by people in Pakistan although he is a smart person. Therefore Maqil tries to find a place where he can develop himself like America. Now, he is in America as a college student.

As a new student, Maqil learns that people are having equal rights to become as smart as others but Maqil becomes overconfident with himself. He declares that he is the smartest among his friends and colleagues but it is ordinary thing for an American when they thought that they are the better among the best. It is part of education in America that a person as an individual shall gained confident in him/herself. By gaining self confident, someone will do their best to achieve their goal.

That is impact of America's education, now Maqil has gained his confident. He begins to think himself such a smart person and no one matched his intelligences. He starts to underestimate others. Even his overconfident is exaggerated when he says he could be president of Unites States if he was born as an American. From that condition, it can be said that Maqil has gained identity as an arrogant person.

His characteristic as an arrogant is formed when he interacted with American nurture. During his education, Maqil's can accept everything that he learns in college because his mind is agreed with the individualism concept. Maqil thinks individualism is right choice for a smart person like him because he could develop himself. As an individual, Maqil thinks that his freedom to deliver his opinion shall not bounded by such a rule. The rule that he shall prioritizes older person than his.

> *He is firm belief that if something can't be done easily, it's hardly worth doing at all. He knows that he is a dilettante, someone who is good at a little bit of everything, but truly concerned with nothing in particular. He has no idea what he will do when he finally leaves college, having delayed the decision as long as possible by overeducating himself as far as the family funds would allow. (2012: 40)*

Maqil believes that he does not need to work too hard to achieve something that definitely hard for him. He used to find the shortcut for his goal by doing something unconventionally just like when he tries to get his driving license by paid the examiner. He is actually a smart person, but he never uses his cleverness to something good. He uses his cleverness in wrong way by did the shortcut to achieved his goals. Although that he is not used to work too hard, he has knowledge about everything. His knowledge may could come from the books that he read in college library or watching news on television. His comprehension only a little bit because he never get too serious to learns about something. Maqil thinks that deep comprehension is not important as he know the basic. He only put a little effort in his in everything and never get it seriously. Despite he does not put much effort on his works; Maqil still tries to develop himself. He begins to

convert old Maqil to become a new one. Maqil is focused on regain his identity as an individual through learning America's education.

Although individualism teaching Maqil to work hard to develop himself as a person. He feels that it is only waste his time to study for a long time; therefore he tried to quit his college despite he has been delayed his decision. Maqil's characteristic is established himself to become someone who has pseudo-knowledge which means he is only understood something in a little portion. That condition has made impact to his college, Maqil begin to thinks that he had no benefit for spend long time in his education. In his mind Maqil only tries to get the good result and not concern about work hard during his education process.

As a result Maqil finishes his education and becomes a pseudo person. Maqil could explain about everything, but does not like an expert who could explain something deeply. His knowledge is only touching the surface and never going deep. But somehow his pseudo character helps him in his job.

4.2.3 Job

As described previously in sub chapter 4.1.1, Maqil's identity is affected by his environment in college. After finishing his education, Maqil choose to leave America, but he does not back to Pakistan. Maqil choose to take a job. Somehow his job is also affecting his identity several times. Maqil's identity changing during his job can be seen in this quotation below.

> *He drifted from the safe and sanitized State to the dangerous and murky Middle East – a boat to France, a train through Spain, and a passenger ferry to the north African coast. He took a job as a political correspondent for a national paper, as a way*

> *to travel around region, to seek out and record the fomenting crises.(2012:51)*

Maqil has finished his education and decides to get a job. He instead choose to leave America which is an ideal country for Maqil to live, rather than to his home in Pakistan where his family always waiting for him to come home. Maqil unexpectedly choose Middle East country; in this case, it is Egypt. He takes a job as political correspondent in the local news paper. Middle East situation is always in high tense but he is not worried about it. Previously, when Maqil is still in New York, he watches a conflict between Egypt and Anglo-French company about the ownership of Suez Channel which lead to an affair. It is started in 1956 when Anglo-French Company ownership has questioned by Egypt government. Since then, the Egypt government is trying to claim as Suez Channel to be a part of Egypt.

Many countries involve in the Suez affair crisis. They are having different concerns in that crisis. Anglo-French company is the one who build the Suez affair, because they having agreement with the previous Egypt governor at Ottoman Era 1869. Actually the crisis begins when British and French were joining force to attack Egypt, but Israel also involve in that attack. As it is known Israel is an enemy for mostly Muslim countries in Middle East. Therefore Egypt government is not accepting when British and French are on Israel's side. Then Egypt government is gained a help from Soviet which was an enemy for British and French. Soviet has big influenced in Eastern Europe and have strong military forces. Such condition makes America joining the British-French alliances to equal Soviet forces.

With two sides of strong military forces is involved in Suez affair crisis, the United Nations (UN) have to stop that conflict, and hold ceasefire negotiation between Anglo-French company and Egypt. Those facts make Maqil irritated (2012: 51) and make him to have interest to get involved about the conflict. During his college Maqil is known for his work that he always criticized Egypt as a corrupt government. Therefore he looks up to become correspondent who has responsibility to seek and report the crisis in that country.

Beside that reason, Maqil may know that in Egypt, gambling is legal. Actually, gambling is prohibited in Middle East because most of the countries are Muslim countries. Egypt is known as Muslim country but the government makes gambling legal for foreigners in that country. Unlike the other Middle East country that clearly declares that gambling was illegal. Related to his job, Maqil is the in Egypt to expose government's corruption to public by criticized them in his report. Then he is also enjoying their corruption product by coming to their casino and keeps gambling habits then enjoys little entertainment.

Due to his job and hobby, Maqil is created a new identity for his new job. He picks local name that overused because that name is popular. Maqil changes his name into Mehmet. That information can be seen in this quotation below:

> *Take this chap Mehmet, a character he has designed for himself, like a modern-day avatar in a game; he had picked a good middle eastern name, popular in Egypt, because that is where Mehmet works and lives.(2012:49)*

For local people in Egypt, Mehmet is a good name and it popular. It was good name because Mehmet is taken from Turkish form Mehmed, it is other variation on Arabic name of Muhammad who is the prophet and Founder of Islam

(www.history.com). It is also popular because Mehmed is used by many Sultans or Governor during Ottoman Empire in 1301-1922. Back then, Egypt Governor is Mehmed Ali Pasha who rules in 1769-1849, and it is the name adapted by Maqil. He designs the name on himself to adapt with his new environment and make him to be a part of Egyptians.

The name is suite to make him blend in conflict area which has in high tense, and he will not be suspected as the spy from other countries which is involved in Suez affair crisis, especially the countries are enemies for Egypt, such as British, France, Israel and America. As mentioned in the previous subchapter (see p. 5), Maqil has known as Michael or Mike in America, this means he will be suspected by Egypt government when he still use that name. Therefore Maqil's name changing is affected from his life environment and occupation. His job as a political correspondent requires him to change his name because there are situation that would risk his life. If Maqil does not adapt to the situation his life might at stake.

Beside his job as a correspondent, Maqil took a job as a occasional employment in a casino, he worked for casino owner to made their costumer spent lot of money. It could be seen from this quotation:

> *His casual work grifting in the casinos, his occasional employment by casino owners as a player goading the big spenders into spending more, his various short-lived projects that required investment charmed from important men didn't seem daring enough either.(2012: 51)*

Maqil work casually in casino that means casino pays him for money that he spends. His duty is to obstruct other player from winning the game. Maqil also

makes his opponent which never bet in high price to spend more money in the gambling table. This job also makes him change his identity because people who actually spend a lot of money in casino were rich. It can be said they could pay people to knock him out. Then Maqil needs money to give him protection from those people. Such condition that Maqil changes his identity is affected by his occupation and his living environment. When occupation requires him had ability to protect himself from other people, Maqil thinks about creating new identities that will make him safe.

Despite did that job for pleasure; Maqil has purpose for gaining some information about the crisis. From the casino that he has worked for, Maqil has proving that he did a good job. He is thrown into jail because of his job, but not for a long time. After he is released from the jail, he has been promoted to editor for political affairs (2012:51). Maqil seems to know about the risk of being a political correspondent, since his writings can be flattered or irritated officials government and can make him to be jailed. So that he is prepared himself for any risk by covering up and changing his real identity.