

Human Development Theory in Action: A Connection to *All My Rage*

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Abstract

With an aim to explore the universality of human development theories through relation to adolescent character Sal of Sabaa Tahir's *All My Rage*, this analysis explores how Erik Erikson's fifth stage of psychosocial development and Hill's ABC-X Model of Family Stress present themselves and how these two theories work in conjunction. To create a basis of inclusion, this paper begins by defining Erikson's stages and Hill's model which act as key concepts in this research. Furthermore, a section of text analysis applies a segment of Erikson's work to excerpts from *All My Rage* (Tahir, 2023) for the purpose of addressing Sal's struggle to develop as an individual amidst tragedy. Finally, Hill's model is applied to Sal's family unit to detect either parallelism or juxtaposition between individual and family conditions. Pairing these two theories ultimately presents conclusions that support human development doctrine as universal, complex, and richly layered.

Research Question

How does Erik Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development relate to Hill's ABC-X Model of Family Stress under the parameters of the character Sal's adolescent period defined in Sabaa Tahir's *All My Rage*, and how do the two theories act as reflections of one another?

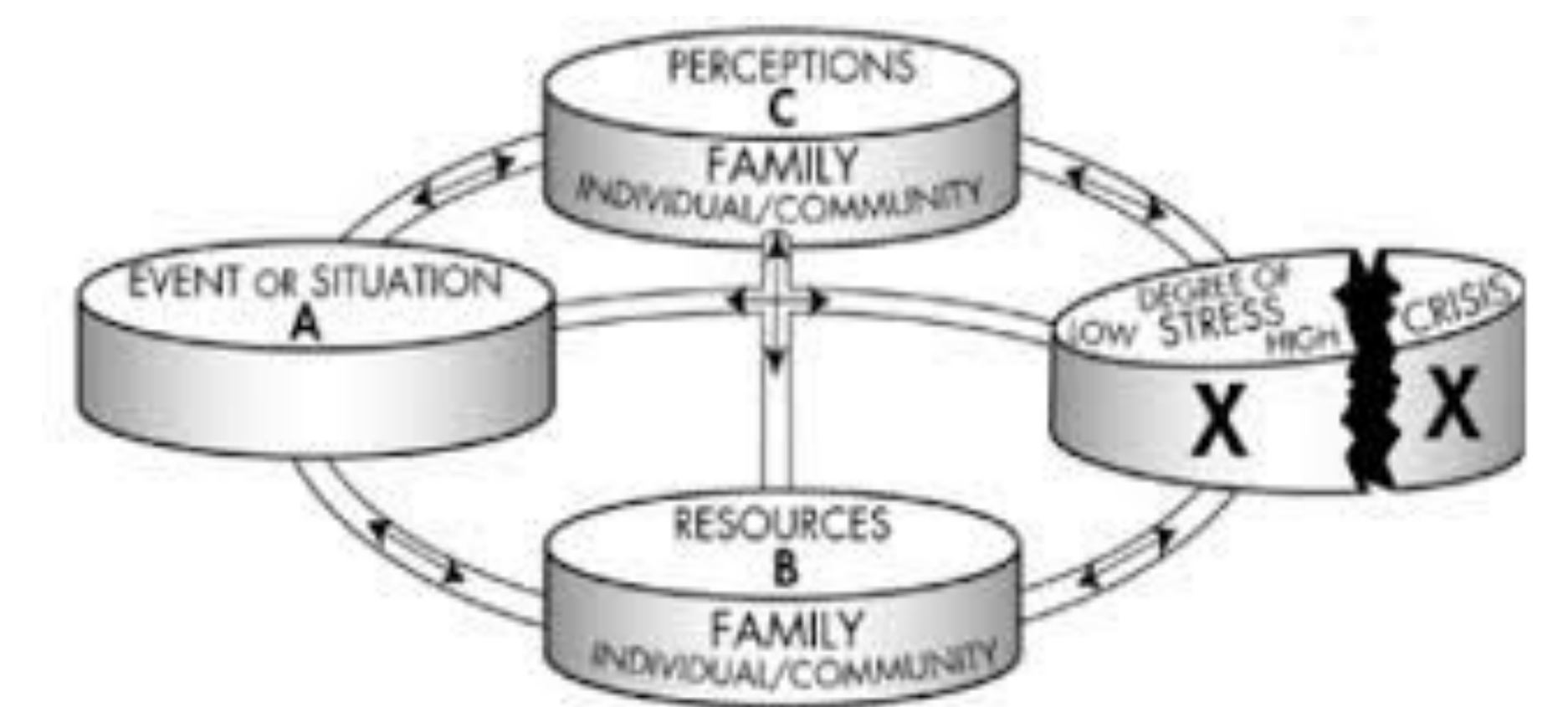


Results

- Applying Hill's model classifies the novel's circumstances as a family crisis.
- Sal resolves Erikson's proposed 5th stage of psychosocial development achieving identity.
- Connecting Hill and Erikson's theories reveals a relationship between Sal's crisis resolution and the family's outcome.
- Both the individual and the family are able to operate at a more impressive capacity following the crisis.
- Through the application of these two human development theories, this study proposes that these characters are more resilient than they are tragic, which offers a perspective only possible through a close-reading analysis and a connection to global human traits.

Theoretical Frameworks

1. Erik Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development:
 - Theory developed in 1950.
 - Consists of eight stages, ages ranging from infancy to end of life.
 - This research focus on the fifth stage, Identity vs. Role Confusion (Erikson, 1950).
2. Hill's ABC-X Model of Family Stress:
 - Model established in 1948.
 - Consists of four factors designed to analyze a family unit's response to a crisis event and consequent stress.
 - This research outlines each of Hill's factors in relation to the examined text to assess the character's crisis management ability.



Methods

- Explanation of theoretical frameworks
- Text examination for Identity vs. Role Confusion (Erikson, 1950)
- Application of Hill's ABC-X Model of Family Stress (1948)
- Connections between family unit and the individual