

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Courage is the ability to confront fear, pain, danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. Courage is most important in human life. Moral courage is the ability to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement. The popular and success can be got by great effort. Effort is based on courage to get, to try, to build and to seek. Generally, the feel of courage is the effort of people after they are loss, failure, despair, etc. People want to get something that make their rise from this.

Loss is the disappearance of something cherished, such as a person, possession or property. That is something special and it is very important to human life. When they are loss in the life, they feel sad and lost of motivation. The feeling of loss is basic experience to change the people life. And loss is one of experience fail in the human life. So, the feeling of loss has the effect to rise the courage of people. Courage is the most important thing in the life. Courage can help feeling of loss from something special. That is courage to try, to seek, and to get something that loss. Courage and loss have relation to feeling and act to get popularity and success.

The Zahir is a 2005 novel by the Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho. The book touches on themes of love, loss and obsession. *The Zahir* was written in Coelho's native language, Portuguese, and it has been translated into 44 languages. The book was first published in Iran, in Persian translation, by Caravan publishing. Iran has never signed any international copyright agreements. By being published first in Iran, the book falls under the national copyright law of Iran. This copyright measure created an unusual situation where a book is first published in a language other than the author's native language.

The *Zahir* means 'the obvious' or 'conspicuous' in Arabic. The story revolves around the life of the narrator, a bestselling novelist, and in particular his search for his missing wife, Esther. He enjoys all the privileges that money and celebrity bring. He is suspected of foul play by both the police and the press, who suspect that he may have had role in the inexplicable disappearance of his wife from their Paris home. Paulo Coelho writes because he wants to be loved.

Coelho gives his narrator a war-correspondent wife, Esther, who disappears. Gradually he realises that her disappearance is a sort of message, a challenge to him to rethink his emotions and make them worthy of hers. She becomes the 'Zahir' of the title, a blinding obsession. Unfortunately, simply repeating the words 'Esther' and 'Zahir' in close conjunction can't make this persuasive. Lost socks have been sought with more passion than this lost wife.

Paulo Coelho was born on 24 August, 1947 in Rio de Janeiro. Before becoming the most widely published Brazilian author of all time, he worked as a theatre director, an actor and a journalist. In the 1970's, Coelho was also a successful songwriter whose songs were sung by such well-known Brazilian singer as Elis Regina, Rita Lee and most notably, Brazilian psychedelic rock pioneer Raul Seixas.

He was the son of an engineer. As a kid he attended a Jesuit school and he started dreaming of being a writer in his teens. When he was seventeen years old, he was put in a mental school just because he was looked upon as an introvert and he had refused to follow the path of traditions. However, he tried to escape three times from the mental school, till he was finally released at the age of twenty. After his release from the mental institution he joined a law school on his parents' insistence. He dropped out of the law year later and started living a hippie life. He traveled through South America, Mexico, North Africa and Europe, fully immersed in the culture of drug which was very popular in the 1960's. After returning to Brazil he started working as a songwriter.

Paulo Coelho's first novel, *Hell Archives* was published in the year 1982. This is not well received but he is determined not to let his dream of writing go away just because of one failure. He started writing on his next novel *Practical Manual of Vampirism* which was later published in the year 1986. Success came to him when his book *The Alchemist* was published in 1988. At first when this novel was printed by a small publishing house. They print

only 900 copies. However he find a bigger publisher who also publish his next book *Brida*. Then, *The Alchemist* become an instant success and go on to become a Brazilian best-seller. It sell more than 60 million copies and later it translate into more than 67 languages which won him the Guinness World Record for most translated book by a living author.

There are four reasons why the researcher chooses this novel. The first is because main character a successful writer. The second is because *The Zahir* comes from the Islamic tradition. The third reason is the courage of husband. And the last reason is because the love story in this novel.

First is because main character is the success writer. The main character is the writer of novel. He writes because of motivation from his wife. His wife always give support to him. Many ways use wife to get spirit for inspiration to witer her husband. Because his wife wants the husband can make the famous writer. Then, main character has motivation to become writer again. So, he write many novel that can know many public.

Second is because *The Zahir* comes from Islamic tradition. The *Zahir* comes from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. It is meant to come from Islamic tradition and it means visible, present and incapable of going unnoticed. Anything can become the *zahir*, and once a person comes into contact with it, it is all they can think about.

Third is because the courage of husband. He lose of his wife and he doesn't know where to get his wife. He have courage to get his wife again.

From he feel loss of wife can cause sad, despair, and broken in life. That is make he have big courage to seek something. His wife is very important to life, so he has courage to get back in his journey.

The last reason is because the love story in this novel. The novel has story about husband and his wife. His wife decides to go from her husband. Then her husband can know where is wife and inform from wife. That can cause problem in the novel.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher will observe *The Zahir* novel by using psychoanalytic approach. So, the researcher constructs the title **Courage and Loss reflected in Paulo Coelho *The Zahir*: A Psychoanalytic Approach.**

B. Literature Review

The study on *The Zahir* is first being conducted in this thesis due to its latest publication, that is in 2013. The researcher has researched through local and digital libraries and found none of it. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in UMS.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how the courage and loss are reflected in *The Zahir* using psychoanalytic approach.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the researcher will analyze the courage and loss of the major character's personality, which appears in *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho using a psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *The Zahir*.
2. To analyze how the courage and loss based on the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

Benefits of the study are as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho.

2. Practical Benefit

In this study, the researcher will get more understanding about Psychoanalytic and how to see character's personality using a Psychoanalytic Approach.

G. Research Method

These points are divided into five sub-points:

1. Type of the Study

In writing the study, the researcher employs the descriptive qualitative research. Moeleong (1983:3) affirms that qualitative research is a research which results in the descriptive data in the form of observed people or behaviors. Then, the steps of conducting this qualitative study are (1) determining the object of the study (2) determining the source of the data (3) determining the method of data collection, and (4) determining the technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the study is novel *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Primary Source

The primary data are taken from novel *The Zahir* by Paulo Coelho.

b. Secondary Sources

The secondary data are taken from any information related to the novel. The writer also gathers information of Paulo Coelho background and his works from many books.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In conducting the study, the researcher uses the techniques of documentation in collecting the data.

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important part from primary and secondary data available.
- c. Selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis of content. The steps of technique of the data analysis are arranged as follows:

- a. Analyze the structural elements of the work.
- b. Try to decide the psychoanalytic analysis of the literary work.
- c. Make discussion of the finding.
- d. Make conclusion and discussion.

H. Paper Organization

The organization of this study is explained in order the reader to be able to understand the content of the paper easier. They are as follows: Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statements, limitation of the study, objective of the study, the benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying

theory, it deals with the notion of psychoanalytic theory, the basic concepts of psychoanalysis and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis, which presents structural elements of the novel. Chapter IV is dealing with the analysis of the characters using psychoanalytic approach. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion of the research.