

SUICIDE OF WILL TRAYNOR REFLECTED IN *ME BEFORE YOU* NOVEL BY JOJO MOYES (2012): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH IN THE DURKHEIM TRADITION



Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department School Of Teacher Training And Education

by:

NIA WAHYUNINGSIH

A320140094

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
2018**

APPROVAL

**DEFINITION OF FRIENDSHIP REFLECTED IN JOHN GREEN'S
LOOKING FOR ALASKA (2005): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

NIA WAHYUNINGSIH

A 320 140 094

This publication article has approved by:

Consultant

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Yeny Prastiwi', is written over the word 'Consultant'.

Yeny Prastiwi, SPd, M.Hum.,Ph.D.

NIK. 1047

ACCEPTANCE

SUICIDE OF WILL TRAYNOR REFLECTED IN *ME BEFORE YOU* NOVEL BY JOJO MOYES (2012): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH IN THE DURKHEIM TRADITION

by:

NIA WAHYUNINGSIH

A 320 140 094

Accepted by the Board of Examiner
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
On June 2018

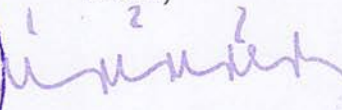
The Board of Examiners:

1. Yeny Prastiwi, S.Pd., M.Hum.-Ph.D. ()
(First Examiner)
2. Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S
(Second Examiner) ()
3. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum.
(Third Examiner) ()

Surakarta, June 4 2018

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
School of Teacher Training and Education
Dean,




Prof. Dr. Harun Joko Prayitno, M.Hum
NIP. 196504281993031001

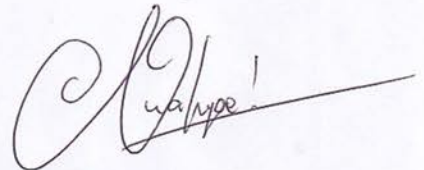
TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify that in this publication article there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degrees of university. Nor there are options or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing are referred manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and references.

Hence, later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold fully responsible.

Surakarta, June 2018

The Researcher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nia Wahyuningsih', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nia Wahyuningsih

A320140094

SUICIDE OF WILL TRAYNOR REFLECTED IN *ME BEFORE YOU* NOVEL BY JOJO MOYES (2012): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH IN THE DURKHEIM TRADITION

Abstrak

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian tentang *Me Before You* oleh Jojo Moyes. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan dan menjelaskan bagaimana bunuh diri yang dialami Will Traynor sebagai karakter utama lelaki dan untuk mengungkap masalah apa saja yang dialami Will sehingga ia memilih untuk bunuh diri. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif yang menerapkan metode analisis isi. Objek dari penelitian ini adalah sebuah novel yang berjudul *Me Before You* yang ditulis oleh Jojo Moyes pada tahun 2012 dan datanya merupakan kalimat-kalimat yang berkaitan dengan bunuh diri yang dilakukan oleh Will yang ditemukan dalam novel. Analisis data dilakukan dengan mengelompokkan dan mengkategorikan data untuk menemukan kesimpulan. Untuk mendapatkan reabilitas, peneliti membaca dan membaca ulang novel dengan hati-hati dan kemudian mencatat data ke dalam kerangka sistematis berdasarkan teori. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukan dua poin, poin pertama adalah sociological analysis yang kemudian ditunjukan kedalam lima kategori: 1) puncak kehidupan Will, 2) ketika sebuah kecelakaan mengubah kehidupan Will 3) usaha-usaha yang dilakukan Will untuk bunuh diri 4) usaha-usaha orang disekita Will untuk mencegahnya bunuh diri 5) keputusan terakhir. Kedua, bunuh diri Egoistic yang dilakukan Will traynor dalam persepektif Durkheim. Analisis bunuh diri Will bertujuan untuk membedakan antara analisis sociological dalam penelitian literature analisis sociological di bidang penelitian lain.

Kata kunci: Bunuh diri, Sociological Approach, *Me Before You*

Abstract

This research is a study of Jojo Moyes's *Me Before You*. The objectives of the research are to find out and explained how suicide reflected of Will Traynor as the main man character and to explain what the problems which make Will decide to commit suicide. This research is a qualitative study applying content analysis method. The object of this research is a novel entitled *Me Before You* written by Jojo Moyes in 2012 and the data are sentences related to Will's suicide that found in the novel. The data analysis was conducted by classifying and categorizing the data to find the inferences. In order to gain reliability, the researcher read and reread the novel carefully and then recorded the data into a systematic framework based on the theory. The results of this indicate two points, the first point is the sociological analysis which is represent into five categories: 1) the peak of Will's life 2) When accident changes Will's life 3) Will's efforts of suicidal attempt 4) the society's efforts to prevent Will's attempt suicide 5) the final decision. Second is egoistic suicide of Will Traynor in the Durkheim perspective. The analysis of Will's suicide intends to

distinguish between analyses of sociological approach in literature study sociological approach analysis in other research fields.

Keywords: Suicide, Sociological Approach, *Me Before You*

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Goodyer (2008) novel is a piece of literary work which presents a life story. The contradiction between novel and other literary fiction is a unique set of characteristics. There are four basic elements of any novel. First, plot is defined by conflict either internal or external. Second, character development is bringing the characters to life in the readers mind. Third, writing style is how the novel is written. It is about how the author use the writing style use efficient or complex words to get clear meaning. Fourth, length is how long the novel. The length should be appropriate to the genre and to the story. Each novel has their own issue. The issues of a novel research use many perspectives. In this research, the researcher use the sociological approach to examined suicide issue.

Me Before You is novel by Jojo Moyes. It has a complicated problems include of the story. The novel tells about the suffer of Quadriplegia paralysis who depressed and he commit to suicide. This novel was published by Penguin Books on 5 January in 2012. The main characters are Will Traynor and Louisa Clark. Lou is an eccentric girl, she as Will's personal assistance. Will Traynor is a rich man, he is handsome, and he has everything. Will formerly adventurer playboy successful and businessman. Who knows his life changed dramatically when a motorcycle accident happen. His life changed after the accident. He loss many things, and now he suffer Quadriplegia.

Therefore, the researcher chooses this research because the researcher wants to know the problem clearly reflected from the main character. This novel shows about Will's complicated life. He is disappointed of his life and still chooses the suicide even he have met with Louisa. So, this is very interesting, how suicide look from the other perspective.

The problem statement will focus on how is suicide of Will Traynor reflected in Jojo Moyes's *Me Before You* novel (2012). The objective of the study is to identify the suicide of Will Traynor reflected in Jojo Moyes's *Me Before You* (2012).

The researcher found some previous researches which are relevant to this research. There is no research about this novel before. Then, the researcher use another ten previous studies that similar with the issue. The first, was conducted by Marson, S. M., & Powel, R. M entitled "*Suicide among elders: A Durkheim proposal*". This article gives suggestion to improve gerontology practitioners in detecting and preventing the occurrence of suicide among elderly. The second, was conducted by Lughod, R. A., & Montoya, E. L. (2016) entitled "*Altruistic and Anomic Suicide: A Durkheim Analysis of Palestinian Suicide Bombers*". Suicide was considered a more inexpensive and more effective way when compared with other terrorism. The third, was conducted by Kok, J. K., & Goh, L, Y. (2011) entitled "*Anomic or Egoistic Suicide: Suicide Factors among Malaysian Youths*". Now suicide rife among young and high-population countries are also affecting. The fourth, was conducted by Bessa, Y. (2012) entitled "*Modernity Theories and Mental Illness: a Comparative Study of Selected Modernity Theories and Mental Illness: A Comparative Study of Selected Sociological Theories*". The analysis on the past indicates a problems founder of sociology discipline. The fifth, was conducted by Kok, J., K. & Goh, L., Y. (2011) entitled "*Young People and Suicide Issue*". Suicide among the young is an acute worldwide issue, and it has become an epidemic in Asia where high suicide rates in several highly populated countries have accounted for the greater part of the world's suicides. The sixth, was conducted by Edwards, D. (2016) entitled "*Suicide in: Guyana: a Sociological Approach Analysis*". Guyana is currently listed among the five countries internationally with the highest suicide rates. The seventh, was conducted by Braswell, H. & Khusner, H., I. (2010) entitled "*Suicide, Social Integration, and Masculinity in the U.S Military*". Reports

indicate that suicide in the U.S military has increased significantly in recent years.

2. METHOD

In analyzing *Me Before You* novel by Jojo Moyes (2012), the researcher use qualitative research which has purpose to analyze literature using Sociological Approach. The researcher use two data sources. First, primary data sources is used broadly to embody all source that are original. It is useful for getting as close as possible to the event or the phenomena in this study. Second, secondary data sources are the researcher is reporting on something that someone else saw and has written which is related to this research. Such as, journals articles, academic books, and encyclopedia. The researcher uses a library research as the method for collecting data. The steps of data collection are as follows: reading the original *Me Before You* novel several times, determining the characters of the novel, taking notes of important things for both of primary and secondary data sources, classifying data by determining the relevant data. The technique which is used by the researcher is descriptive analysis. It relates with Suicide reflected in Jojo Moyes's *Me Before You* (2012).

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

The analysis Jojo Moyes's *Me Before You* is based on Sociological Approach in the Durkheim Perspective (1987) which is related to the concepts of suicide. The finding is a sociological analysis. Sociological analysis separate in some parts. Those are as follow:

3.1.1 A Sociological Analysis

According to Durkheim (1987), any suicide committed by someone must have a fundamental reason why the person chooses to commit suicide. Everyone has their own problems. People have despaired, then they will take a shortcut that is suicide. They assume that if they have

committed suicide they will soon escape with their problem. According to that opinions of Durkheim (1987) also concluded there are many reasons that encourage someone to commit suicide. So does this novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes, man named Will Traynor, he also has a complicated life problem and makes his family members seems emotionally about how Will is suffering from his life and some efforts he should do and the reason he would choose to survive or committed to suicide. Will then finally decides commit suicide. This conduct of suicide is separated into several steps that is explained into following sections:

3.1.2 The Peak of Will's life

Will is adventurer man, he like things which challenging life. He is free and he has a good occupation. He has a perfect life.

3.1.3 When Accident changes Will's Life

When all the problems begin changes his life. After the accident he suffered Quadriplegia paralysis.

3.1.4 Will's Efforts of Suicidal Attempt

At this stage Will felt depressed. He felt his life was very useless. He is now suffer from Quadriplegia. His whole body is paralyzed, he will only be able to move if assisted by a wheelchair. Many times he try to suicide.

3.1.5 The Society's Efforts to Prevent Will's Attempt Suicide

Depressed with his current state, Will expressed a desire to die peacefully. Through a community called Dignitas. (A group which helps reviews those with illness and serve physical and mental illness to die assisted by qualified doctors and nurse). At the time of saying that Will repeated twice because his mother did not believe Will's first statement. His mother do all efforts to prevent Will's attempt to suicide.

3.1.6 The Final Decision

Will gave up in his life. Every day he is afraid to though his condition. He though that he will always trapped forever in the wheelchair.

Finally, he died in Dignitas accompanied by his parents, Louisa, and his sister.

3.2 Discussion

This research discovers some of stress identified by the evidence reflected on dialogues from the novel: when the accident changes dramatically Will's life, followed by dealing family issues and because boy-girl relationships. First, when the accident changes dramatically Will's life. After the accident happen Will's perfect life has been destroyed. Will suffered Quadriplegia and he depressed with his condition. Every day he always do the thing which threaten his life. He wants to commit suicide.

The second, the factor identified in suicide is a family matter. Families are bound to face many changes as a result of social change. Today's society is increasingly modern, competitive, and fast-paced. Most families are a family of double incomes and parents are busy with their work. The real example as found in this novel, Will feels that he has never been close to his family.

The third is boy-girl relationship. Boy-girl relationship is common for young people at this stage of development. However it can present a big stress especially for male participants when emotional support is not available especially when the relationship does not work. It is especially true and has presented as a potential source of stress for male participants as shown in this research. Will is pessimistic with his life and Louisa is an innocent girl she is Will's nurse, she never dare to dream. Slowly but surely Will who exhausted with his life he started to open his up mind because of Lou. Because of her, Will becomes more communicative and more open minded, and they begin to share their experiences. They fall in love each other. Their relationship as the big stress especially for Will, because at this condition he just trapped in his wheelchair he cannot do anything to his girlfriend. It makes the other problem of male's life. Will

would normally use distinct action when come to suicide behaviors. It could be explained by the male reluctance to share their personal problems with others when they experience emotional disturbances. Instead, they opt for serious suicide action.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher comes to the conclusion as follows: First, based on the sociological approach in the Durkheim tradition to analyze Will attempt suicide, the researcher analyze suicidal of Will because he is not strongly supported by membership in a cohesive social group. This is what persuades a person to feel desperate and need of support from the people around him. As well as the character of Will in this novel, he feels if he and his life is not useful anymore, because the illness he suffer sets worse. The second, based on the Durkheim's theory of suicide, the researcher concludes if Will is more concerned with his own interests than anyone. He experiences disoriented to his life's priority that he ignores his life goals. His unachieved goal makes his desire is greater than the interests of others, without thinking about values, norms, and traditions. He has ignored all of those things just to suicide. This paper reveals the perspective of Will on the issues of suicide and death.

REFERENCES

- Goodyer, M. (2008). *Literary Theory, The Novel And Science Media*.
- Montana. Durheim, E. (1982). *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.
- Kenneth, T. (1982). *A Summary on Emile Durkheim's Book "suicide" published in 1897*. London: Tavistock Publications.
- Jones, R., A. (1986). *Emile Durkheim: An Introduction to Four Major Work*. Beverly Hills, LA: Sage Publication, Inc.
- Pickering, M. (1993). *Auguste Comte: An Intellectual Biography, volume 1*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Barnes, J., A. (1966). *Durkheim's Division of Labor Society*. Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britanian and Ireland.

- Marson, S., M. & Powel, R., M. (2011). *Suicide among Elders: a Durkheim Proposal*. International Journal of Ageing and Later Life.
- Kok, J., K. & Goh, L., Y. (2011). *Anomic or Egoistic Suicide: Suicide Factors among Malaysia Youths*. Kampar Malaysia: University Tunku Abdul Rohman.
- Lughod, R., A. A. & Montoya, E., L. (2016). *Altruistic and Anomic Suicide: A Durkheim Analysis of Palestinian Suicide Bombers*. Published by: Canadian Center of Science and Education.
- Bessa, Y. (2012). *Modernity Theories and Mental Illness: A Comparative Study of Selected Sociological Theorist*. Columbia: Divisions of Humanities Allen University.
- Kok, J., K. & Goh, L., Y. (2011). *Young People and Suicide Issue*. Singapore: Lacsit Press.
- College, O. (2013). *Introduction to Sociology*. Houston Texas.
- Cross, S. (2011). *Sociological Theory and analysis*. University of London: Stewart House
- Edwards, D. (2016). *Suicide in Guyana: A Sociological Analysis*. Barbados: University of the West Indies.
- Braswell, H. & Kushner, H., I. (2010). *Suicide, Social integration, Masculinity, in the United States Military*. United States: Emory University