CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Death is the absence of life in every biological organism, and also as the end of life that every living being will be ready or not. According to the medical world, death is divided into three phases, first, clinical death which is marked by the cessation of the heartbeat, breathing and the five senses that no longer react. Second, brain death, at this stage all brain functions stop. The last biological death is the final phase of death which is marked by the death of body cells so that they no longer regenerate.

While death is divided into two types, namely natural and unnatural deaths. Natural deaths, the main cause of which is a disease or malfunction of the body that is not directly affected by external influences. Then unnatural deaths are usually seen as accidents caused by accidental risks, adventure mistakes because of excessive and dangerous risks that can include excess drugs or alcohol, then murder, and suicide.

Death is often used as a topic in a story by novelists, one of the novelists discussing death is Jojo Moyes. The romantic novel ended tragically. Pauline Sara Jo Moyes is the author of a British romantic novel. She was born on August 4, 1969, at Maidstone, England. Her husband was Charles Maxwell Arthur and had three children. She is a British journalist and since 2002 began writing romantic novels and screenwriters. She has written many novels, including The One Plus One, Paris for One and Other Stories, The Girl You Left Behind, The Last Letter from Your Lover, Silver Bay, Me Before You, After You, Still Me, etc. One of her famous novels is Me Before You. This novel was published in 2012. Due to the success of the novel, in 2015, Jojo Moyes wrote the sequel of the novel entitled After You and in 2018 published Still Me, to complete the trilogy. Then Me Before You was appointed as a romantic film on June 3, 2016, directed by Thea Sharrock and produced by Karen Rosenfelt and Alison Owen. The
manuscript of the film was written by Jojo Moyes based on a novel that was
given the same title as the original novel.

*Me Before you* novel won an award from the ALA (American Library
Association) as the winner of women's fiction, a category of extraordinary
fiction reading that deserves special attention by general adult readers and
librarians who worked with them (the Reading List) in 2014. Besides, the film
*Me Before You*, which was adapted from a novel with the same title won 6
nominations, such as nominations from the Teen Choice Awards (2016) Choice
Movie: Liplock category, nominations from the Golden Trailer Awards (2016)
Best Romance TV Spot category, nominations from Jupiter awards (2017)
Emilia Clarke casts woman as Louisa Clark in Best International Actress
category, nominations from Kids' Choice Awards (2017) Favorite Soundtrack
category, MTV movie and TV award nomination (2017) Tearjerker category, and
Golden Trailer Awards (2017) nomination for Best Romance TV Spot
category. Also won 6 wins, namely the winner of the Golden Trailer Awards
(2016) in the category of Best Romance twice, winner of the Golden Trailer
Awards (2016) Best Romance Poster, winner of Heartland Film (2016) in the
category of Truly Moving Picture Award, winner of the People's Choice Awards
(2017) Favorite Dramatic Movie category, Winner of ASCAP Film and
Television Music Award (2017) in the Top Box Office Films category.

In the *Me Before You* novel, a man named Will Traynor who is normal and
healthy must be transformed into a quadriplegia syndrome due to his accident.
Clearly illustrated how his struggle survived to decide for himself how he died.
The story was inspired by a young rugby athlete who had to suffer from
quadriplegia syndrome after his accident, so he asked his parents to take him to
the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland.

*Me Before You* tells about two people with different backgrounds who
were brought together because of an incident. There was a handsome, wealthy
and successful man named Will Traynor, everything he had was perfect. On a
rainy morning, Will left for work, after coming down from his apartment while
calling on his coworkers and intending to call a taxi, when he crosses the road an
unexpected thing happened, speeding up a motorcycle which then crashed into him until he fell unconscious. When awake, Will becomes a sufferer of Quadriplegia syndrome. Quadriplegia or Tetraplegia is caused by a disease or injury that causes the loss of part or all of the bodies sensory and motor parts. As a result of the accident, Will Traynor had to lose his body functions except for a few fingers and face, thus requiring him to be in a wheelchair if he wanted to go anywhere and requires supervision and assistance from others for 24 hours.

On the other hand, there lived a cheerful, innocent and eccentric style girl named Louisa Clark who came from a small and ordinary family. She lives with his father, mother, grandfather, younger sister and nephew. Louisa helped his father become the backbone of the family and she worked as waiters in a cafe. However, the cafe owner was forced to fire her for closing the cafe. In the midst of the crisis, it was very difficult to find a new job, and the salary of her sister who worked in the flower shop was very small, her retired grandfather who was not enough for his daily needs, and her father who worked in the factory began to worry because his boss wanted to reduce employees. Until finally Louisa got a job as a caregiver at Will Traynor's house. Will Traynor who feels bored, upset, despaired of his life began to rebel and reject himself and his family's desire to survive. He asked for a life span of 6 months and if he did not change his mind he wanted to be taken to the dignity. This is where the story of Louisa and Will begins.

*Me Before You* received many positive and negative comments from reviewers. According to Goodreads, Emily May gave her positive comment, she thinks that people's reactions, emotions, and decisions are felt realistically in the novel *Me Before You*. The entire contents of the book contain humor and ridiculous circumstances that we think exist in fictional comics, but are balanced with difficult facts. this book makes the reader able to feel all emotions without having to try hard to understand the story. Then, Angela said the story in *Me Before You* was built very amazingly, with an unexpected ending that made the eyes tear. So many lessons can be learned from the story. *Me Before You* novel is a must read of a must-read.
On the other hand, Jessica, who gave negative comments, had 3 main issues, first, she felt tears falling instead of the pain felt not by a sad character turned on by a skilled writer. But no less or more she feels if she reads the same scenario in a 500-word book summary or article in a local newspaper. Secondly, she felt offended by Louisa's character, only because she had been a victim then changed herself to be more unique or had a strange taste to close her feminine side. Third, a combination of selfishness and no use disguising it as a love story.

The researcher was interested in researching *Me Before You* novel for several reasons. First, because the story inside is very good and not boring to read. Second, many things are still a puzzle for researchers to be eager to examine the novel based on an existentialist perspective. Therefore, the researcher analyzes the novel in research entitled “DEATH AS A MEANINGFUL CHOICE IN JOJO MOYES'S *ME BEFORE YOU*: AN EXISTENTIALIST STUDY”.

1.2. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the researcher focuses to analyze some problem statements:

- a. What are the causes of the main character to choose to die in the novel *Me Before You*?
- b. How is the choice of death depicted in the novel *Me Before You*?
- c. Why did the author address the idea in the novel *Me Before You*?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

Based on problem statements above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To identify the causes of the main character to choose to die in the novel *Me Before You*.
- b. To describe the choice of death depicted in the novel *Me Before You*.
- c. To reveal why did the author address the idea in the novel *Me Before You*. 
1.4. Benefits of the Study

The result of this research expected to give some benefits. The benefits of this study are divided into two as follows:

1.4.1. Theoretical Benefit

To give a contribution to the larger body of literary knowledge by studying *Me Before You* novel written by Jojo Moyes.

1.4.2. Practical Benefit

Practically this research will give influence for me as a researcher and the next researcher. For a researcher, this research can enhance my knowledge especially by learning Existentialism theory. Then, the researcher hopes that this research can help another researcher and gives deeper understanding in the literary field as references and previous study to other researchers in analyzing Jojo Moyes’s *Me Before You* novel especially based on Existentialism study.

1.5. Paper Organization

The researcher organized this research into five chapters and subchapters. First, in chapter one there is an introduction, which consists of five subchapters, there is the background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and paper organization.

Chapter two there is a literature review, which consists of three subchapters. First, underlying theories. Second, previous studies review some related study from this research. The last is theoretical framework.

Chapter three is research method. This chapter consists of five subchapters. First is the type of study. Second, the object of the study. Then, third is a type of data and data source. Fourth, the technique of collecting data and the last is the technique of the data analysis. Chapter four there is finding and discussion. Therefore, the last is chapter five is the conclusion, suggestion and pedagogical implication, which gives the result of the research.