INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF LIFE REFLECTED IN MITCH ALBOM’S THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN (2003): SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree in Department of English Education

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Abstrak


Kata kunci: Keterkaitan kehidupan, Perspektif Sosiologi, The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Abstract

"Interconnectedness of Life Reflected in Mitch Albom's The Five People You Meet in Heaven (2003): Sociological Perspective" was chosen as the title of this research because it is important to find out more about the interconnectedness of life through this novel. The purpose of this study is to identify what are the indicators of the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life, to describe how the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life is depicted in the novel, and to find out the reason the author addressed the interconnectedness of life in this novel. This type of research is descriptive qualitative. The data used for this study taken from primary data and secondary data sources. Primary data from this study is the novel The Five People You Meet in Heaven. Secondary data from this study were taken from books, websites, and other sources related to this study. Data collection techniques in this study are the study of literature that is reading novels, noting important things related to research, finding other data sources on the internet and analyzing data. At the end of this study it was concluded that the interconnectedness of life is a relationship between one human and another and shows cause and effect. We as humans are the result of other human actions.
Researchers also found two indicators of interconnectedness of life such as cause and effect. Finally, the author of this novel discusses the interconnectedness of life because he wants to prove that heaven is a place for people who are responsible for everything they do and meet five people who are interconnected in life on earth.

**Keywords:** Interconnectedness of Life, Sociological Perspective, The Five People You Meet in Heaven

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Interconnectedness of life is the phenomena where the life is interconnected to each other. We as an individual human being can be the effect of what someone is doing, we can also be a cause for what will happen to others and place others as a result of our actions. This shows that there is a kind of causal relationship that occurs in life and it called interconnectedness of life.

This research focuses on *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel; this is a novel by Mitch Albom that was published in 2003. Mitch Albom is a Jewish born on May 23, 1958 in Passaic, New Jersey. The story in this novel tells the life and death of Eddie, an 83-year-old man who works as maintenance in an amusement park called Ruby Pier. This novel is interesting because it starts from the end of Eddie's life. He died on his 83rd birthday because he saved a little girl in the tragedy of the ravages of the rides in the amusement park where he worked.

After his death, he suddenly regained consciousness and found himself in a new world, heaven. According to Eddie, heaven is not a beautiful place like what people have been talking about. Heaven is a place where life takes place. In heaven too, he met five people who were significant in his life. These are people whom Eddie might love, family, or even strangers. However, these five people are people who have unconsciously changed the course of Eddie's life. These five people are also people who give Eddie the lessons of life through every person and every met they had.

Based on the reader's response, the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a good book. This book takes readers to more deeply interpret life and inspire them. Some people also say that this book has changed their lives
for the better. Reading this book makes readers understand that not all stories stand alone.

Researchers use interconnectedness of life as a phenomenon to be discussed in the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. It is because the researcher wants to find out what the author of the novel wants to say to the reader.

Some interesting points in the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* that are interesting to discuss: first, because this novel is one of the best novels from Mitch Albom which also has a lot of readers from all over the world. Second, this novel tells a lot about the meaning of life. Third, the novel has an interesting storyline where the writer also tells the life after death of the main character (Eddie).

An important issue used by researchers to conduct this research is how this novel brings readers to know that life is influenced by many things and no story sits by itself. Based on this, the researcher uses the perspective of literary psychology as a theory to analyze the issues in this novel. So the researcher decided to write this research with the title *Interconnectedness of Life Reflected in Mitch Albom’s The Five People You Meet In Heaven (2003): Sociological Perspective*.

All of the previous studies have found by researchers can be classified into literary studies because there is no single study of linguistic or translation studies. Nevertheless, three of them discussed the structural approach as conducted by Elisabeth Yulita Rury Wulandari (2010), M. Saiqul Huda (2012) and Rio Eka Nugraha (2016). Other research conducted by Maulana Mansyur (2010) discusses the semiotic analysis of the novel. Furthermore, research on psychoanalysis of Eddie the main character in the novel has also been carried out by Darji Darmo Diharjo (2012) and Muhammad Hafidz (2018). Finally, there is research on intertextual analysis conducted by Atika Umul Khoeriyah (2016) which discusses the concept of heaven from an Islamic perspective.

So that the differences between this research paper and all of the previous researches above are the issue and theory used by the researchers. In this
research, the researcher reveals about the interconnectedness of life, the indicators of interconnectedness of life and the reasons of the author's address the interconnectedness of life in the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by using sociological perspective.

In conducting this research, researcher used several theories about the sociology of literature from various figures, namely Rene Wellek, Austin Warren, Swingewood and Diana Laurenson. Apart from these literary sociology figures, researcher also read several articles and books on the sociology of literature as a reference.

According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972) sociology of literature is a theory that discusses human relations with the social environment which involves all aspects of human life itself. Sociology "is knowledge that studies about human relations with the environment, the study of a social process which answers the question, how society is possible, how it works, and why it persists" (p. 11)

Wellek and Warren (1986: 89) mentioned that usually the relationship between literature and society describes and defines the influence of society on literature and to determine the value of the position of literature in society.

So in this case, literary sociology is a literary theory that shows the relationship between literature and society where the literary work was created.

The sociology of literature according to some experts is classified into several parts. Likewise with Wellek and Warren (1986: 84) classify the sociology of literature into three parts. As follows: 1) Sociology of the author, discussing about the social status of the author, political ideology, social ideology and other matters concerning the statements and activities outside the literary work itself. 2) The sociology of literary works discusses a literary work itself and seeks answers to what the goals or mandates to be conveyed through the literary works. 3) Sociology of the reader, which is concerned about the reader and his social influence on society in principle.

According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972: 13-22) there are three perspectives related to literary sociology namely; the first, literature as a
reflection of the times and situations when the literary work was made. Secondly, literature can be seen from the process of producing the literary work itself which is a reflection of the social situation of the writer. Third, literature can be seen from its relation to history and public acceptance.

Every human being in this world must have a relationship with each other, even though they are only strangers, but they are still related and related to a certain event that occurs in this life. The relationship that occurs between humans is not an independent relationship. They are interconnected because this relationship will affect him and others. A relationship can also affect other relationships.

The definition of interconnectedness shows another important aspect of interconnectedness. The relationship between two things may be mutually influential. Suppose the first thing affects the second, it means that a relationship will mutually influence other relationships. At the same time, there may be an effect of the first on the second; it means that a relationship is influenced by another relationship. So, there are two influences at once to consider in a relationship (Ritter, 2000: 319)

According to the description above, the researcher can conclude that the interconnectedness of life is a relationship between one human and another and shows a cause and effect. We as humans are the result of other human actions. Even so, we can also be a cause for what happens to others and bring consequences to them.

The researcher observes the indicators of interconnectedness of life in novel The Five People You Meet in Heaven. Here the indicators of interconnectedness of life that can be found in the novel: 1) Cause: Merriam Webster defines that cause is a reason for an action or condition. Cause can also be interpreted as something or things that can cause consequences for something else. 2) Effect: Merriam Webster defines that effect is something that inevitably follows antecedent (such as a cause or agent). Effect can also be interpreted as to cause to come into being.
2. METHOD

In analyzing the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom (2003), the researcher will use a qualitative approach. This approach is considered capable and suitable for this study because the researcher will analyze the novel using qualitative method and does not need statistic data. The researcher conducted this study by using some previous study from another researcher about interconnectedness of life and sociology perspective as the formal object. Data sources consist of two types, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data is the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom itself, while the secondary data is all materials related to this research. The data collection techniques in this study were literature studies namely reading novels, taking notes on important matters related to research, looking for other data sources on the internet. The researcher uses some method of collecting data; first, reading extensively the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom (2003). Second, reading some articles and journals to get some information. The third, making notes from the point which needed. The last, distinguish based on the data will be used.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Indicators of Interconnectedness of Life

There are two indicators of interconnected of life found by the researcher. They are cause and effect. All over the indicators are depicted through the story experienced by Eddie as the main character and the other supportive figures in the novel. They will be explained by the researcher in analysis below through the cause and effect relationship in every case.

3.1.1 Negligence – Accident

The first cause and effect relationship is found in the very first case which is the negligence of Nicky, a visitor at Rubi Pier who is the cause of the accident that made Eddie die as the effect of it.
The young man, whose nam was Nicky, had just begun driving and was still not comfortable carrying a key chain. So he removed the single key and put in his jacket pocket, then tied the jacket around his waist.

For the next few hours, he and his friends rode all the fastest rides: The Flaying Falcon, the Splashdown, Freddy’s Free Fall, the Ghoster Coaster.

Later, when it was dark, they returned to the car lot, exhausted and laughing, drinking beer from brown paper bags. Nicky reached into his jacket pocket. He fished around. He cursed.

The key was gone. (Albom, 2003, p.13)

So, the effect caused by Nicky's car key, which has been mentioned above that Nicky's car key that was stuck in one of the carts of Freddy’s Free Fall caused Eddie to die because of falling number 2 cart.

And Eddy was right. Inside the base of Freddy’s Free Fall, hidden from view, the cable that lifted Cart No. 2 has, for the last few months, been scraping across a locked pulley. Because it was locked, the pulley had gradually ripped the cable’s steel wires – as of husking an ear of corn – until they were nearly severed. No one noticed. How could they notice? Only someone who had crawled inside the mechanism would have seen the unlikely cause of the problem.

They pulley was wedged by a small object that must have fallen through the opening at a most precise moment.

A car key. (Albom, 2003, p. 18)

The quotation above shows that Eddie finally learned that a car key would result in Cart No. The two fell, but he did not know the effect of this until Eddie was finally the one affected.

3.1.2 Inadvertence - Accident

The second case is about Eddie who caused the death of The Blue Man. Although they did not know each other and only met occasionally when Eddie was a child, something Eddie did accidentally caused the death of The Blue Man. This can be seen in the quotation below:
Now take that same story from a different angle. A man is behind the wheel of a Ford Model A, which he has borrowed from a friend to practice his driving. The road is wet from the morning rain. Suddenly, a baseball bounces across the street, and a boy comes racing after it. The driver slams on the brakes and yanks the wheel. The car skids, the tires screech. (Albom, 2003, p. 45)

Eddie, who was a kid at that time playing baseball as his birthday present, and because his baseball bounced across the road, the car driven by The Blue Man had an accident.

So, the effect caused by Eddie's baseball rolling into the streets which is caused someone’s death, as shown in the quotation below:

The man somehow regains control and the Model A rolls on. The child has disappeared in the rearview mirror, but the man’s body is still affected, thinking of how close he came to tragedy. The jolt of adrenaline has forced his heart to pump furiously and this heart is not strong one and the pumping leaves him drained. The man feels dizzy and his head drops momentarily. His automobile nearly collides with another. The second driver honks, the man veers again, spinning the wheel, pushing on the brake pedal. He skids along an avenue then turns down an alley. His vehicle rolls until it collides with the rear of a parked truck. There is a small crashing noise. The headlights shatter. The impact smacks the man into the steering wheel. His forehead bleeds. He steps from the Model A, sees the damage, and then collapses onto the wet pavement. His arm throbs. His chest hurts. It is Sunday morning. The alley is empty. He remains there, unnoticed, slumped against the side of the car. The blood from his coronary arteries no longer flows to his heart. An hour passes. A policeman finds him. A medical examiner pronounces him dead. The cause is listed as “heart attack.” There are no known relatives. (Albom, 2003, p. 46)

The quotation above shows that the death of the Blue Man is the effect of something caused by Eddie. Although from the medical world it is said that the death of the Blue Man was caused by a heart attack, but the main
thing is there because of Eddie. Even though they are both strangers, an action will still cause and cause something else to happen.

3.1.3 Purposive - Injury

Later when Eddie met with Captain, he came to understand that it was Captain who caused his legs to be injured during the war. This can be seen in the quote below:

“I shot you, all right”, he said, “and you lost something, but you gained something as well. You just don’t know it yet. I gained something, too”. (Albom, 2003, p. 98)

At his meeting, Eddie learned that the injury to Eddie's leg had been a result caused by Captain. He was the one who shot Eddie's leg to save Eddie from death. At that time Eddie was trying to save someone in the middle of a fire that put him in danger and Captain shot Eddie's foot to stop him. So, from this the result of what Captain had done was to make Eddie's leg injured, but he also kept Eddie alive.

“Because,” he said calmly, his elbow across. Eddie’s chest, “we would have lost you in that fire. You would have died. And it wasn’t your time.”

Eddie panted hard. “My . . . time?”

The Captain continued. “You were obsessed with getting in there. You damn near knocked Morton out when he tried to stop you. We had a minute to get out, damn your strength, you were too tough to fight.”

Eddie felt a final surge of a rage and grabbed the Captain by the collar. He pulled him close. He saw teeth stained yellow by tobacco.

“My . . . leggggg!” Eddie seethed. “My life!”

“I took your leg,” the Captain said, quietly, “to save your life.”

Eddie let go and fell back exhausted. His arms ached. His had been spinning. For so many years, he had been haunted by that one moment, that one mistake, when his whole life changed. (Albom, 2003, p. 91)
The conversations between Eddie and the Captain show that what the Captain did actually result in a good thing, that is saving Eddie’s life. However, on the other hand, Eddie’s life became heavier and changed drastically when he had to feel pain and injury to his leg.

3.1.4 Ignorance – Hatred

Next is about Eddie’s father's treatment of him when he was a child being the cause of Eddie's dislike of his father. Seen from the quote below:

> All parents damage the children. This was their life together. Neglect. Violence. Silence. And now, someplace beyond death, Eddie slumped against a stainless steel wall and dropped into a snow bank, stung again by the denial of a man whose love, almost inexplicably, he still coveted, a man ignoring him, even in heaven. His father. The damage done. (Albom, 2003, p. 115)

According from the quotation, Eddie’s father's remarks were the cause of Eddie's dislike of him. In fact, Eddie became vengeful to him. His father was an alcoholic, often abusive towards his wife and children and often ignored Eddie. One time Eddie suffered an accident in the Philippines during the war and resulted in injury to his father's legs he could only curse and when Eddie wanted to fight, the reply was the neglect and silence of Eddie’s father to him for years.

> He never spoke to his son again. This was the final handprint on Eddie’s glass. Silence. It haunted their remaining years. His father was silent when Eddie moved into his own apartment, silent when Eddie’s wedding, silent when Eddie took a cab-driving job, silent at Eddie’s wedding, silent when Eddie came to visit his mother. She begged and wept and beseeched he husband to change his mind, to let it go, but Eddie’s father would only say to her, through a clenched jaw, what he said to others who made the same request: “That boy raised hand to me.” And that was the end of the conversation. (Albom, 2003, p. 115)
Eddie's meeting with a third person in heaven led him to understand what really happened to Eddie's father. He is a boy who hates his father. The attitude of hatred that he showed was the result of his father's ignorance towards him, his father being rude and also alcoholic.

“I hated him,” he mumbled.

The old woman nodded.

“He was hell on me as a kid. And he was worse when I got older.”

(Albom, 2003, p. 149)

The sentence above shows how much Eddie hated his own father because of the treatment his father had done when he was a child and continued into adulthood. The hatred and grudge felt by Eddie towards his father made him unable to forgive his father even until his father died.

3.1.5 Ignorance - Accident

Eddie is the cause of his wife's accident. The details are when Eddie doesn't want to obey Marguerite's words not to participate in horse racing.

He limps to a pay phone and drops in a nickel. Marguerite answers. Eddie tells her the news. Noel is right. She is not happy. She tells him to come home. He tells her to stop telling him what to do.

“We are a baby coming”, she scolds. “You can’t keep behaving like this.”

Eddie hangs up the phone with a heat behind his ears. He goes back to Noel, who is eating peanuts at the railing. (Albom, 2003, p. 171)

The conversation between Eddie and Marguerite over the telephone explained that Eddie's attitude of not listening to what Marguerite was saying was the wrong attitude. This makes Marguerite determined to overtake Eddie and have an accident.

Forty feet below, Marguerite never thinks to look up, never thinks that anything might be happening on that overpass, never thinks about anything besides getting Eddie out of that racetrack while he still has some money left. She is wondering what section of the grandstand to look in, even as the Old Harper's whiskey bottle smashes her windshield into a spray of flying
glass. Her car veers into the concrete divider. Her body is tossed like a doll, slamming against the door and the dashboard and the steering wheel, lacerating her liver and breaking her arm and thumping her head so hard she loses touch with the sounds of the evening. She does not hear the screeching of cars. She does not hear the honking of horns. She does not hear the retreat of rubber-soled sneakers, running down the Lester Street overpass and off into the night. (Albom, 2003, p. 173)

The quote above also explains that another person also caused the accident that Marguerite experienced on her journey following Eddie. However, Eddie was the initial cause of the accident. If he listens to his wife and returns home, Marguerite will not drive alone and have an accident.

So, the effect of Eddie’s ignorance made Marguerite had an accident on her way to meet Eddie who was competing in horse racing. The accident also resulted in Marguerite being hospitalized and undergoing a recovery period of six months and the failure of their plans to adopt a child. This is described in the quote below:

The accident on Lester Street sent Marguerite to the hospital. She was confined to bed for nearly six months. Her injured liver recovered eventually, but the expense and the delay cost them the adoption. The child they were expecting went to someone else. The unspoken blame for this never found a resting place – it simply moved like a shadow from husband to wife. Marguerite went quiet for a long time. Eddie lost himself in work. The shadow took a place at their table and they ate in its presence, amid the lonely clanking of forks and plates. When they spoke, they spoke of small things. The water of their love was hidden beneath the roots. Eddie never bet the horses again. His visits with Noel came to a gradual end, each of them unable to discuss much over breakfast that didn’t feel like an effort. (Albom, 2003, p. 174)

The quote above also shows how the incident affected their lives together. Their relationship looks a little awkward. Talks that usually flow
well are slightly reduced because of the incident. However, because of that incident Eddie also never did horse racing with Noel again.

3.1.6 Wildfire - Accident

The last case is about Eddie and his team during the war in the Philippines was the cause of the death of a girl. It is because she had burned down the village on their last day of war. The quote can be seen below:

**EDDIE FELT HIS JAW TIGHTEN.**

“What did you say?”

“You burn me. You make me fire.”

*Her voice was flat, like a child reciting a lesson.*

“My ina say to wait inside the nipa. My ina say to hide.”

Eddie lowered his voice, his words slow and deliberate.

“What . . . were you hiding from, little girl?”

She fingered the pipe-cleaner dog, then dipped it in the water.

“Sundalong,” she said.

“Sundalong?”

She looked up.

“Soldier.”


“Tala . . .” he whispered.

“Tala,” she said, smiling at her own name.

“Why are you here, in heaven?”

She lowered the animal.

“You burn me. You make me fire.”

Eddie felt a pounding behind his eyes. His head began to rush. His breathing quickened.

“You were in the Philippines . . . the shadow . . . in that hut . . .”

In the end the fire that Eddie and his team created was the cause of the death of Tala. Although Eddie had wanted to save Tala, it did not work because Eddie's leg was shot and he was unable to save Tala.

“Tala?” he whispered.

She looked up.

“The little girl at the pier? Do you know about her?”

Tala started at her fingertips. She nodded yes.

“Did I save her? Did I pull her out of the way?”

Tala shook her head. “No pull.”

Eddie shivered. His head dropped. So there it was. The end of the story.

“Push,” Tala said.

He looked up. “Push?”

“Push her legs. No pull. You push. Big thing fall. You keep her safe.”

Eddie shut his eyes in denial. “But I feel her hands,” he said. “It’s the only thing I remember. I couldn’t have pushed her. I felt her hands.”

Tala smiled and scooped up river water, then placed her small wet fingers in Eddie’s adult grip. He knew right away they had been there before.

“Not her hands,” she said. “Those were my hands. I bring you to heaven. Keep you safe.” (Albom, 2003, p. 204 – 205)

Although Eddie caused Tala to die in the fire, his meeting with Tala also made Eddie know that he died not in vain. Eddie saved another child at Ruby Pier when the chart of Freedy Free Fall fell. The girl's name is Amy or Anny.
3.2 Depiction of Interconnectedness of Life

Phenomenon of interconnectedness of life in Mitch Albom’s *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* (2003) addressed strongly by the author for creating three depictions. They are character, setting, and events.

3.2.1 Depicted by Creating the Characters

The creation of characters in a literary work especially novels or other fiction literary works is indeed very important. The character is used by the author to convey stories and phenomena that the author wishes to convey through the literary work. So that in the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, the author created several characters to show the interconnectedness of life phenomenon in this novel.

Some characters who show the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life are Eddie the main character where he is maintenance in an amusement park called Ruby Pier. Eddie was met with five other characters in his heaven that taught Eddie some lessons in life and showed Eddie that they were all interconnected even though some of them did not know Eddie personally.

The first character is The Blue Man, a man who used to work as a circus performer at Ruby Pier when Eddie's father was still working there. The Blue Man is unique because he has a blue body and died of a heart attack on the day of his accident caused by Eddie's baseball.

The second character is the Captain. He was Captain Eddie when he was fighting in the Philippines during World War II. The Captain is also the person who caused Eddie's leg to be injured because he shot him.

The third character Eddie encounters is Ruby. Actually Eddie didn't know Ruby personally. Ruby is an old woman whose name is used as the name of the amusement park where Eddie and his father work. Ruby's husband named Emile built the amusement park for his wife.

The fourth character is Marguerite. She is Eddie's wife. Marguerite is a woman who wants to accept Eddie as he is and loves Eddie as much as Eddie loves himself.
The fifth character is Tala. She is a girl Eddie almost saved when a fire in the Philippines broke out. Tala died in a fire caused by Eddie and his team.

The next character is Eddie's father who makes him meet Ruby in heaven. Ruby's husband, who at that time had an accident in the Ruby Pier fire, was hospitalized and at the same time Eddie's father was also treated in the same hospital and room. At that time Eddie's family needed money for his father's care costs, so that Eddie's mother had to borrow money from Emile who was Ruby's husband, and from there they became related.

The next was Nicky, a young man Eddie didn't know. Nickky visited Ruby Pier on the day of Eddie's death and Nicky's car keys caught in Freddy Free Fall caused Eddie to die due to the fall of the game's chart. At the end of the chapter in this novel it is mentioned that Nicky is the grandson of Ruby.

The evidence found by researchers that the five characters or people that Eddie met in heaven are interconnected are as follows:

“THERE ARE FIVE people you meet in heaven,” the Blue Man suddenly said. “Each of us was in your life for a reason. You may not have known the reason at the time, and that is what heaven is for. For understanding your life on earth.” (Albom, 2003, p. 37)

3.2.2 Depicted by Creating Setting of Place

In this novel the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life can also be proven by making the setting of place. The first is Ruby Pier the amusement park where Eddie spent his life working. The second is the Philippines where Eddie met the Captain when he was at war.

However, apart from that the most obvious setting of place of this novel is the world and heaven. This is when Eddie was in heaven he met five people who were connected and he learned that his life in the world turned out to be a relationship of five people. This is shown by the evidence below:
“People think of heaven as a paradise garden, a place where they can float on clouds and laze in rivers and mountains. But scenery without solace is meaningless.

“This is the greatest gift God can give you: To understand what happened in your life. To have it explained. It is the peace you have been searching for.” (Albom, 2003, p. 37)

In the Epilogue section of this novel, the narrator also tries to give evidence of the interconnectedness of life phenomenon where heaven is a place where we know everything that we did not know when we were on earth. Heaven also teaches us that everything influences one another.

... And in that line now was a whiskered old man, with a linen cap and a crooked nose, who waited in a place called the Stardust Band Shell to the share his part of the secret of heaven: That each effect the other and the other effects the next, and the world is full of stories, but the stories are all one. (Albom, 2003, p. 208)

3.2.3 Depicted by Creating Events

As explained by the researchers that the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life is a relationship between one human and another and shows a cause and effect. We as humans are the result of other human actions. Even so, we can also be a cause for what happens to others and bring consequences to them.

So to show the existence of the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life the author of this novel creates some events which shows the relationship between one person and another person and the existence of a cause and effect of the relationship. Some of the events are as follows:

1) Eddie's death

The first event was Eddie's death where it was the beginning of how the story in this novel began because according to what the narrator said that:

THIS A STORY ABOUT A MAN named Eddie and it begins at the end, with Eddie dying in the sun. It might seem strange to start a story
with an ending. But all endings are also beginnings. We just don’t know it all the time. (Albom, 2003, p. 1)

On the day of Eddie's death, the author also pointed out the interconnectedness of life phenomenon, namely the existence of a causal relationship in this event. The cause of this event was a Ruby Pier visitor named Nicky who lost his car keys while riding the new "tower drop" attraction, Freddy’s Free Fall and caused one of the carts to fall. As a result, Eddie died because of the fall of one of the carts from the vehicle.

2) Eddie's meeting with the Blue Man

The next event was Eddie's meeting with five people in his paradise. The first person he met was the Blue Man. Eddie and the Blue Man are two strangers who don't know each other, but because of one event their lives are interconnected. The Blue Man also explained to Eddie that he would meet five people in his heaven like the Blue Man also experienced.

“I am your first person, Edward. When I died, my life was illuminated by five others, and then I came here to wait for you, to stand in your line, to tell you my story, which becomes part of yours. There will be others for you, too. Some you knew, maybe some you didn’t. But all crossed your path before they died. And then altered it forever.” (Albom, 2003, p. 38)

His meeting with the Blue Man was also not without reason. They are connected because of cause and effect in their lives. The Blue Man died due to an accident caused by avoiding a child who ran after a baseball that was rolling on the streets while the Blue Man was driving.

An event will be a cause-and-effect relationship when we see it not only from one side, but we must see it from a different side. This is because, a good thing happens on our side is not necessarily a good thing can happen on the side of others. That could be the opposite. As experienced by Eddie and the Blue Man. On Eddie's side a good thing happened because he didn't have an accident, but on the Blue Man's side,
bad luck happened because he died in an accident on the same event they had experienced. This is evidenced in the quote below:

*Take one story, viewed from two different angels. It is the same day, the same moment, but one angel ends up happily, at an arcade, with the little boy in tawny pants dropping pennies into the Erie Digger machine, and the other ends badly, in a city morgue, where one worker calls another worker over to marvel at the blue skin of the newest arrival.* (Albom, 2003, p. 46)

Evidence that shows the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life at Eddie's meeting with the Blue Man is not only that, but there are still a few others. The interesting thing is the Blue Man tries to explain to Eddie that everything that happens in life is not random. Everything is connected and influencing each other.

“That there are no random acts. That we are all connected. That you can no more separate one life to another than you can separate breezee from wind.” (Albom, 2003, p. 50)

“You say you should have died instead of me. But during my time on earth, people died instead of me, too. It happens every day. When lightning strikes a minute after you are gone, or an airplane crashes that you might have been on. When your colleague falls ill and you do not. We think such things are random. But there is a balance to it all. One withers, another grows. Birth and death are part of a whole.” (Albom, 2003, p. 50-51)

3) Eddie's meeting with the Captain

The next event is Eddie's meeting with the Captain. When he went to the Philippines to fight, there he met the Captain. The interconnectedness of life phenomenon is also seen in this event where Eddie's and the Captain's reunion in heaven happened because of a causal relationship in their lives and Eddie did not fully know what was happening.

This event happened on their last night in the Philippines. They were the last group left during the war, so they decided to burn the
village and leave the village. But when the village started to burn, Eddie saw a girl trapped there. This makes Eddie desires to save the girl. The Captain who knows Eddie is trying to break through the flames must stop Eddie's footsteps by shooting Eddie's feet. Thus, the causal relationship in this event that is the Captain is the cause of Eddie's leg injury. Although in fact the Captain injured Eddie's leg but because of that Eddie is still alive today. On the other hand, in the same event the fire they created was the cause of the death of a girl.

4) Eddie's meeting with Ruby

Eddie's meeting with Ruby, her third person in heaven is also evidence of the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life in this novel. Long before Eddie was born, Ruby's husband named Emile built a beautiful amusement park called Ruby Pier where Eddie's father and he worked there all his life. Ruby tells Eddie that Eddie would never have worked at Ruby Pier if that place didn't exist. This is confirmed by the evidence of the quotation below:

She tapped her fingertips together. “If it not for Emile, I would have no husband. If not for our marriage, there would no pier. If there’d been no pier, you would not have ended up working there.” (Albom, 2003, p. 130)

Eddie and Ruby are actually two strangers but however they have a connection in their lives. Thanks to his meeting with Ruby he also learned that his father was actually not a bad person, not someone who did not care about his family, so Eddie who initially hated and resented his father could forgive his father.

If traced from previous events, an interesting relationship will be found. Ruby's husband, Emile, is the owner of Ruby Pier, where a friend of Eddie's father named Mickey worked at Ruby Pier and when Eddie's father needed a job Mickey came to Emile to give Eddie's father a job. Then when a fire broke out at Ruby Pier, Emile became one of the victims in the fire and had to be treated in hospital. At the same time
Eddie's father was hospitalized because of his illness. The Eddie family who had financial problems tried to borrow money from Ruby and Emile. From that incident Ruby learned the truth of how Eddie's father died because he knew firsthand which Eddie had been misunderstanding the cause of his father's death.

“Things that happen before you are born still affect you,” she said. “And people who come before your time affect you as well. (Albom, 2003, p. 130)

So from this event, it can be seen that the phenomenon of interconnected of life does not only occur directly between two people but can also relate to previous people and relate to other events even before someone is born.

5) Eddie's meeting with Marguerite

Eddie's meeting with his wife happened because their lives were also interconnected with each other, what more they were a husband and wife where the slightest thing they did must have an impact on them and their lives. The events in their lives that were very influential in their lives were when Marguerite had an accident and when Marguerite died.

The day Marguerite had an accident was the day Eddie had done horse racing. Eddie did not want to listen to Marguerite’s advice to go home because it was a bad habit. Marguerite yelled at Eddie because she wouldn't listen to his advice. It also made Marguerite feel guilty and ventured after Eddie so he had an accident. It can be seen that one event is interconnected and causes a cause and effect in it.

Then the event that greatly affected Eddie's life was almost entirely when Marguerite died. From that moment on he became very lonely and lived his life very passionately. He spent his days working as maintenance at Ruby Pier.

She turned to him.

“You had to live without love for many years, didn’t you?”

Eddie said nothing.
“You left that it was snatched away, that I left you too soon.”

He lowered himself slowly. Her lavender dress was spread before him.

“You did leave too soon,” he said.

“You were angry with me.”

“No.”

Her eyes flashed.

“OK. Yes.”

“There was a reason to it all,” she said.

“What reason?” he said. “How could there be a reason? You died. You were forty-seven. You were the best person any of us knew, and you died and you lost everything. And I lost everything. I lost the woman I ever loved.”

She took his hand. “No, you didn’t. I was right here. And you loved me anyway.

“Lost love is still love, Eddie. It takes a different form, that’s all. You can’t see their smile or bring them food or tousle their hair or move them around a dance floor. But when those senses weaken, another heightens. Memory. Memory becomes your partner. You nurture it. You hold it. You dance with it.


6) Eddie’s meeting with Tala

Tala was the last person Eddie met in his paradise. Actually, Eddie did not know Tala personally. He first met Tala when he was in the Philippines during the war. Tala is a girl who Eddie tried to save when a fire broke out that night. Finally Tala died in a fire caused by Eddie and his team. That's how their interconnectedness of life relationship is formed.

When he met Tala in heaven, he found answers to all his questions about the little girl who was at Ruby Pier when the day of his death
occurred. Eddie died trying to save the little girl. In the end Eddie learned that the little girl named Amy or Anny had been saved.

3.3 The Reason Why Mitch Albom Addressed The Interconnectedness of Life in The Novel

Mitch Albom is a famous international author. After succeeding with the novel *Tuesday with Morrie*, the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* became the bestselling novel in the US.

The interconnectedness of life phenomenon in this novel is depicted by Eddie as the main character and is supported by all the characters which are interconnected and form a causal relationship and affect Eddie's life directly or indirectly, consciously and indirectly.

The reason why Albom wanted to show the existence of the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life was because he wanted to tell a story that his uncle always told. The first fact discovered by researchers about this novel is that Eddie the main character in the novel is an interpretation of Mitch Albom’s uncle. He is a veteran who died at his 83rd birthday. Not only his name, but the life story of his uncle was the same as Eddie's life story in the novel.

The second fact is what Albom actually wants to convey through this novel:

“Somewhere, swimming in my head, is a picture my uncle gave around that table, some people waiting for you when you die. And I began to explore this simple concept: what if heaven is not a lush Eden Garden, but a place where your life is explained by the people in it - five people - maybe you know them, maybe you don't know. But in some ways you are touched by them and change forever, just as you inevitably touch people while on earth and change them too.” (Mitch Albom, in https://www.mitchalbom.com/)

From the indicators found by researchers about the interconnectedness of life and the evidence of this in the novel makes the reader, especially researchers increasingly convinced that the author actually wants to convey
it through this novel. The story line of the novel also has relations between Eddie the main character and the other characters that create a causal relationship and form an interconnectedness of life.

3.4 Discussion

According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972) the sociology of literature is a theory that discusses human relations with the social environment which involves all aspects of human life itself. Besides that, the literary sociology according to Wellek and Warren (1986) is divided into three; one of them is the sociology of the author which is used by researchers to analyze the novels in this study. From the findings, researchers found that Albom wrote the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* to prove that our lives are always connected and related by others, both people we know and with strangers.

The sociology of the author from the data above states that Albom wrote this book because it was inspired by his uncle named Edward Beitchman because he heard the stories of his uncle before his uncle died. So he wrote this novel and conveyed the message that interconnectedness of life is a relationship between one human and another and shows a cause and effect. We as humans are the result of other human actions. Even so, we can also be a cause for what happens to others and bring consequences to them.

In the novel *The People You Meet in Heaven*, the researcher also found a few fragments of the story and dialogue between the characters mentioned in the findings section. With the various findings that exist and also the statement of Albom as the author of the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* which mentions that this life is interconnected, the sociology of the author used by researchers in this study is indeed appropriate.

In addition, researchers also found differences between this study and research that had been done by other researchers regarding this novel as in previous studies. The first is research from Elisabeth Yulita Rury Wulandari (2010) which aims to analyze the main character's perceptions of their
previous life and to determine the affect of the five people on the main character's perceptions of their previous life. Wulandari uses a psychological approach to his research.

The second is research from Atika Umul Khoeriyah (2016) which examines the relationship between the concept of Heaven as described in the novel and the related verses of the Qur'an through its texts. He uses the theory of intertextuality analysis from Julia Kristeva and also uses Islamic research methodology. So at the end of his research he found similarities and differences between the two concepts of heaven.

The third research from M. Saiqul Huda (2012) which discusses life lessons from the novel The Five People You Meet in Heaven, he uses a structural approach theory by Jean Piaget. The analysis, which was carried out based on character and characterization, conflict, and setting, succeeded in bringing the conclusion that this theme was a life lesson experienced by Eddie as the main character.

The fourth research from Maulana Mansyur (2010), the purpose of this research is to identify the relationship of signs, objects, and interpretations and to get the message or meaning between the three things in the main character's journey to heaven. The theory used by researchers is the Peircean theory.

The fifth research by Muhammad Hafidz (2018), the purpose of this research is to understand character Eddie as someone who lives a life full of psychological problems. The theory used by the researcher is Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic approach. The researcher concluded that from this research he knew about Eddie's personality through psychoanalysis perspective.

The sixth is by Darji Darmo Diharjo (2012). This study aims to identify the causes of anger, how to express anger and determine the influence of the main character's anger on himself. Researchers use an objective theoretical approach. Researchers found that the cause of the main character's anger occurred when his father was seriously injured during his
childhood and then Eddy served in the war which left him with permanent physical disabilities. He was angry with his life because he felt he had to give up his own goals. He felt that he had lost his chance because of the war and the people around him. The way he expresses his anger is by not working and spending his days indoors staring out the window. Then he never spoke to his father again.

The last research by Rio Eka Nugraha (2016), the aim of this research is to identify the theme of the story, setting, and the development of the main character in the story. The result of this research is if someone has meet someone or something it can make us learn more about life and from this research we know about the theme of the story, setting and the character.

After describing several previous studies, it can be seen that previous research has focused more on research in the fields of structural approaches, psychoanalysis, and intertextuality. So, the researchers have not found research that discusses the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life studied in the sociology of literature for this novel. So the presence research will complement previous research so that research on this novel has more studies in various fields.

4. CLOSING

After analyzing the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom the researcher was finally able to draw several conclusions, namely:

First, the researcher can draw the conclusion that the interconnectedness of life phenomenon is a phenomenon where all things can be related to one another. Whether with people we know or with strangers, it can also be with people who lived when we were not born all connected to each other and form a causal relationship and reaction action.

Second, the researchers also found indicators of interconnectedness of life, cause and effect. The two indicators are actually inseparable from each other because they are interconnected in an event that occurs in the life of the
main character, Eddie. However, the researchers have separated events from one another to find the cause and effect of an event.

Finally, the researcher has been able to reveal Albom's reasons for writing this novel even more by revealing the phenomenon of interconnectedness of life. The reason is because Albom is eager to reveal some of the stories of his uncle named Edward Beitchman who inspired him to write this novel and manifested in the main character in this novel, Eddie. His uncle always tells Albom every year when the Thanksgiving table takes place, his uncle tells the same story that is when he was hospitalized and in one day he dreamed of meeting people who were in his life or even strangers and people who were before he was born but they are crossing the path in their lives. So for that reason makes the researcher put that this research is suitable based on the theory of sociology of the author which is part of the sociology of literature.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


