

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

No one better clarifies the genuine significance of death than the individual who will confront it in a couple of years. Death is the perpetual end of all natural capacities that help living creatures (Dictionary.com, 2018). Phenomena that regularly cause death incorporate maturing, predation, ailing health, sickness, self destruction, murder, starvation, parchedness, and significant mishaps or injury bringing about terminal injury. Much of the time, the body of a living life form starts to deteriorate following death (Zimmerman, 2010).

Death is something which is difficult to understand, and also common. Mankind is as familiar with death as humans are familiar with life. Death and life are revolving things. Death is natural, but it is never worth thinking about. Death is a wonderful thing. The difference between death and life is only breath. If only death could be seen to the limit, and if it had not happened so suddenly (Korpiola and Lahtinen, 2015).

However, there is never enough time to answer all questions. Humans are not bodies that move around aimlessly. The body cannot understand anything. However, there is a soul living in it that gives purpose to the body. Hands, feet, lungs, heart, brain, and all of them stop working when the soul

returns to its original place, according to the time assigned to it, for human being (Pandya, 2011).

Death, particularly human death, is commonly viewed as a dismal or undesirable occasion, on account of pity for the perished and the breakdown of social and family relationship with the expired. Different concerns incorporate dread of death, necrophobia, tension, misery, trouble, passionate agony, gloom, compassion, sympathy, isolation. Numerous societies and religions have thoughts regarding post-existence, and furthermore have thoughts regarding prize or judgment and discipline for past sins (Korpiola and Lahtinen, 2015).

Many questions about death were not only thought by scientists, but also by a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi. His investigations into the death have brought him to the brink of death after he was convicted of cancer. But, it was what happened to Kalanithi. With a brilliant academic career and nearing completion of training as a neurosurgeon, Kalanithi received the devastating news that he had lung cancer at the age of thirty-seven. Overnight he went from being a doctor to a patient and he wrestled with the question of what makes life worthwhile because his ambitions and accomplishments have been taken away. As he and his family experience grief, Kalanithi contemplated the nature of life (Radwan, 2019).

Kalanithi composed *When Breath Becomes Air* in the last snapshots of his life. *When Breath Becomes Air* portrays Kalanithi's change from a clinical student controlled by "the topic of what makes life beneficial and significant,

given that all will be lost at long last" to neurosurgeon at Stanford wrestling with the mind, the most significant organ of human character, finally, become another patient and father confronting his death. The inquiries that emerge in Kalanithi's psyche are: What makes life worth living experiencing despite death? What do you do when the future no longer prompts the ideal objectives, however in the present perpetual? What does it mean to have children, deal with new life when another life diminishes? Here are a portion of the inquiries that Kalanithi looked in his memoir to leave a story to his little girl sometime in the future

Before becoming a cancer patient, Paul was an excellent neurosurgeon accomplishment. Just waiting for a few time, he would finish his training and got a promotion. However, at a young age, 36 years old, he underwent two existences at once. At one time he was a neurosurgeon treating the patient, on the other hand he was a patient who tried to survive.

Paul Kalanithi began experiencing cancer symptoms while serving as an occupant specialist in neurosurgery. His back started to fit, and inside a half year, he had lost enough weight to tie his belt two levels more tight. He presumed he had malignant growth before setting off to the doctor. The x-rays seemen no problem to the doctor who treated the usual doctor. Then, he relaxed a little, exhausted and in pain from the long and stressful hours of becoming a student in medical faculty, but soon, she started suffered from pain in his chest.

Paul and Lucy, his wife, prepared to visit their friends in New York. Lucy decided to stay in California while she considered their marriage, she felt alone and unsupported, especially considering how busy Paul was. Before Paul left, he had gone through a progression of tests, including a chest X-ray. However, when he showed up at his companion's home, he was so depleted and in torment that he chose to leave early. His essential consideration doctor called when he got off the plane in San Francisco, and as a result, his X-rays were hazy.

However, with 15 months remaining in his residency, Paul's fate changed. For six months, he lost weight and suffered severe back pain, something he had never experienced before. He went to the doctor, and at the first appointment, he took several X-rays. His doctor concluded that he was going too far at work. Paul was skeptical but returned to the ward anyway. He wanted to finish his residency, which he had worked so hard to complete. However, the pain returned, this time in his chest. His weight loss continued, he lost 145 pounds and had a persistent cough. Paul realized that his symptoms were a clear indication of cancer.

Paul wrote that cancer has ruined his life and career. Paul realized if a patient's life would never be the same again after the deadly disease verdict was imposed. It had been learned much further past day when he was a doctor. It is the main question Paul Kalanithi posed in his best-selling memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air*. It is a question that most of us do not like to think about. In his memoir, Paul did not try to self-pity, dramatize cancer and death,

or suddenly become a life motivator with his memoirs. From a sociology perspective, at the beginning of Paul's cancer stage 4, he continued to run his activities as a doctor though he had to struggle.

Paul passed away on on Monday, March 9, 2015, in an emergency hospital bed and encompassed by his family. Lucy clarified that *When Breath Becomes Air* was not completed, despite the fact that Paul composed it vigorously. With that book, Paul needed to assist individuals with getting demise and face their death. Lucy communicated that she was so thankful to be a piece of what offered significance to Paul's life, and to have watched him face life emphatically and face death with honesty. In the end, Paul truly understood what the real meaning of life and death was, because he had not only had the opportunity to deliver people to life/death but also to be a part specially visited by death.

Based on the previous reasons, the researcher will observe *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir using the sociological theory of Swingewood and Laurenson. So, the title constructed by the researcher is “POSITIVELY FACING DEATH REFLECTED IN PAUL KALANITHI’S WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR (2016)”.

B. Formulation of Problems

1. What are the indicators of positively facing death in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir?

2. How is positively facing death depicted in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir?
3. Why did the author specifically address positively facing death in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study as follows:

1. To describe the indicators of positively facing death in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir.
2. To analyze positively facing death depicted in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir.
3. To identify and analyze the author address positively facing death in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir.

D. Limitation of The Study

The researcher focuses on analyzing the contribution of positively facing death in *When Breath Becomes Air* memoir.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The researcher hopes that this research can provide new contributions and information to the wider community, especially the literary study on *When Breath Becomes Air* (2016).

2. Practical Benefit

This study is required to give a more profound comprehension and enhance both information and experience particularly for the researcher, by and large for other Muhammadiyah University students and can likewise be utilized as a source of perspective by other students who are keen on literary study at *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi, in light of a Sociological Perspective

F. Paper Organization

The researcher arranges this research into five chapters and sub-chapters. First, in chapter one the introduction which consists of the background of the study, formulation of problems, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, and paper organization.

Second, chapter two is a literature review which consists of three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is previous studies that describe several similar studies of this study. The second sub-chapter is the underlying theory which consists of the notion of the sociology of literature, the major principal of sociological literature, definition of death, and the notion of positively facing death. The third sub-chapter is novelty.

Third, chapter three is research method consists of the type of research, the object of research, the type of data and data sources, the data collection technique, and the data analysis technique.

Fourth, chapter four is finding and discussion. This chapter consists of four sub-chapter which are indicators of facing death positively in *When Breath Becomes Air Memoir*, facing death positively described in *When Breath Becomes Air Memoir*, the author positively responds to facing death in *When Breath Becomes Air Memoir*, and the discussion.

Fifth, the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter consists of three sub-chapters namely conclusion, suggestion, and pedagogical implication.