

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

The story from *Me Before You* tells us about a man who was desperate in his life after a serious accident that left him paralyzed and incurable. This despair depicts how he lived his life after he was diagnosed paralyzed by a motorcycle accident. This picture of despair can be illustrated from his thoughts, attitudes which began to be rude and selfish and chose to end his life through suicide organizations in Swiss. With that, you feel when you are in such a bad situation and a situation that is so undesirable that you run the risk of changing it. It could be because the incident was traumatized by someone who experienced something in his past, thus making someone feel hopeless and become a sad person continuously. Sometimes someone who has felt hopeless will cause something bad that is by hurting oneself, doing bad or unwanted things, and the most severe can cause depression to suicide.

The term of despair is an act or act of despair or a state of despair (Collins English Dictionary), or which can be interpreted as a human condition as being hopeless or despair. Feelings of despair can affect the way of thinking and affect human actions, because they are disturbed by a condition that is stress. People who experience stress due to failure or mistakes they have done can be in the past or can be caused by a feeling of regret or sadness that drags on. From these conditions, people may be able to give up their hopes and their goals for their future. If they cannot resolve or eliminate their stressful thoughts, it will cause more harm. Worse in this most serious condition, it can cause their desire to commit suicide. So, in every life man must build his own character, self-confidence and find strength for yourself to avoid despair.

Life choices are one of a variety of topics that can be included as stories in a story. One of the story of *Me Before You* (2012) by Jojo Moyes. This story was inspired by the true story of the writer, Jojo Moyes. She was inspired by several members of his own family who needed 24 hour care. Then, she also got these stories from the news on radio broadcasts that reported that a young sportsman who experienced paralysis and decided to commit suicide by Dignitas. So she makes these things as ideas and inspiration to make stories. She said that she wanted to write a story that tells about how a man who did not know the compromise and made a decision

that would not be approved by many people around him, and put it in the position of people around the man who wanted to change his decision.

This story tells the readers how his choice to despair and end his life from this story can be discussed in this study by looking at how the main character, Will Traynor, who gave up on his life after an accident that caused paralysis. And Louisa Clark, as Will's assistant who wants to make Will's life end beautiful. While Will still does not change his decision to register with the organization. He showed his selfish, unfriendly and stubborn behaviour so that his personality was seen as a sign that he chose to despair.

This story tells about Louisa, a beautiful girl who always dressed uniquely who works in a cafe, but unexpectedly she was fired from her job due to bankrupt. But it is not the end of the story, Louisa is not discouraged because she is a family backbone, she goes to a job vacancy agency and there is a vacancy for a person with disabilities who need an assistant for six months with a sizable salary.

In the beginning, Will was not very happy, but time went on because of Louisa's efforts, Will was moved to accept Louisa as his assistant. Will and Louisa become close, they often spend time together from starting at Will's house to traveling for vacation and making Will feel better.

Remember Will who cannot recover from his disability makes Will not have a meaningful life and Will determine that he will end his life by registering in a suicide organization in Swiss. After that was heard by Louisa, she had to make Will to enjoy his life and forget about it by inviting Will to take a vacation and have fun with Louisa and his doctor named Nathan. But at the end Will still choose his decision even though he is happy with Louisa, so that makes Louisa angry and away from Will. After Louisa told his father then she came to Will for the last time. And after all Will died by leaving a legacy and letter for Louisa, Will said that the last six months was a very beautiful time for him. The story ends with Louisa reading Will's will at the place that Will recommended in the city of Paris.

This story received many responses from readers, especially positive responses. In [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), a comment from Navy Wife M on June 12, 2017, he said that the story was a masterpiece that made the reader feel what the characters in the novel felt. He suggested that everyone should read the novel, so that they could explore what they would do if they retreated to an impossible angle. Then, there was another positive response from the novel from MyHumbleOpinion's commentary on July 1, 2016, he said that the story of Me Before You was a good and satisfying reading story in the summer.

However, on the other side of this novel also received criticism from readers. From [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), blue\_bird commented on December 3, 2014, he said that he hates the novel because the character of Louisa Clark and his story can be painfully predicted. On June 6, 2016 from [www.popcrush.com](http://www.popcrush.com), the story of this novel also received criticism which sparked controversy over a message about people with disabilities.

In the book market, *Me Before You* is a novel from a novel that has an extraordinary market. The story of this novel was first printed in the UK in 2012 and now has sold more than 12 million copies of books worldwide, even in the USA Today and the New York Times also praised this novel. In addition, this novel also received an award as the New York Times Best Seller. Then, Jojo Moyes stated that she released a sequel titled *After You* which was released on September 29, 2015. And this novel has also been translated into various of languages. This story was also published as a film directed by Thea Sharrock and produced by Karen Rosenfelt and Alison Owen, and starring Sam Claflin as Will Traynor (main character) and Emilia Clarke as Louisa Clark (Will's assistant), Steve Peacocke (Will's doctor), Jenna Coleman (Louisa's sister), Janet McTeer (Will's mother), Charles Dance (Will's father) and Matthew Lewis (Louisa's boyfriend), which will be released in 2016 in the United States and become a box office film.

The researchers decide to analyse this story because it is one of the stories that is of particular interest to teenagers. From this story many get moral lessons about life stories and self-actualization and tell us about the meaning of life and the meaning of choosing a choice when something bad happens to us.

In addition, there are several reasons why researchers are interested in analysing this story. First, from the characters from this *Me Before You* story. There are two characters described by the author of two very different personalities. Louisa Clark is a unique and cheerful girl but she has no ambition for her life, whereas Will Traynor is a man who is passionate with loving aspects of his life until an accident he gives up on his life.

Second, the plot of the story is interesting so it can make the reader feel the feelings of the characters in the story. It is very interesting if we can follow the flow of this story and share how to take care of the people closest to us who are giving up their lives because they are limited in doing the things that are normally done in their lives.

Third, this story is the best-selling romantic drama story written by Jojo Moyes in 2012. It can be seen that this is a story that has been translated into many languages, one of which is

Indonesian. It has also been made into a film with the same name as a novel, which aired on June 3, 2016 in the United States.

So from the above reasons, the researcher decided to use psychoanalytic to analyze this story, because it is based on the problem that will be discussed in this study, namely Louisa's struggle with Will's choice. This story illustrates the despair experienced by the main character here, Will Traynor, who wants to be helped by his assistant, Louisa Clark, to make his end of life even more beautiful even though Will remains in his absolute choice.

## **B. Research Questions**

The researcher formulate some problem statement into the following questions, are follows:

1. What are the different characteristics of Will Traynor before and after the accident ?
2. How is depicted of Louisa Clark when she know about Will Traynor's choice ?
3. Why the author focuses on desperation of Will Traynor ?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The objective of the Study are as follows :

1. To identify the different characteristics of Will Traynor before and after the accident in novel.
2. To describe how depicted of Louisa Clark when she know about Will Traynor's choice.
3. To reveal the reason why the author focuses on desperation of Will Traynor.

## **D. Benefit of the Study**

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This research gives discussion about the the journey of an assistant who helps people who are desperate and get through it from the plot of the story of this novel. Especially when it comes to struggling when it comes to tough choices, love, and loyalty of an assistant to his employer and not to force a people's choice.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The researcher hopes that this will provide information about the personality of a person who is easily discouraged by something, a personality that comes out of despair and a personality who accepts a reality and faces it with a smile and sincerity.