

**THE STRUGGLE OF LOUISA TO SUPPORT WILL'S CHOICE IN HIS
LIFE REFLECTED IN JOJO MOYES'S *ME BEFORE YOU* (2012) : A
PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



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

By:

RIFDAH

A320170159

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

2021

APPROVAL

**THE STRUGGLE OF LOUISA TO SUPPORT WILL'S CHOICE
IN HIS LIFE REFLECTED IN JOJO MOYES'S *ME BEFORE YOU*
(2012) : A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

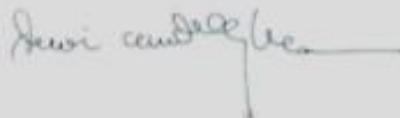
by:

RIFDAH

A320170159

Approved to be examined by Consultant
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

Consultant,



Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S. Pd., M. Ed
NIDN. 0609127502

ACCEPTANCE

**THE STRUGGLE OF LOUISA TO SUPPORT WILL'S CHOICE IN HIS LIFE
REFLECTED IN JOJO MOYES'S ME BEFORE YOU (2012): A
PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

by:

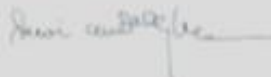
RIFDAH

A320170159

Accepted by Board Examiner of English Education
School of Teacher and Training Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
On, 20 July 2021

The board Examiers:

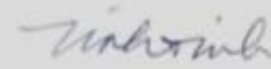
1. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M. Ed
(Head of Exaimer)

()

2. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M. Hum
(Member I of Examiner)


()

3. Dr. M. Thoyibi, M. S
(Member II of Examiner)

()



Dekan


Pir. Dr. Sutama, M.Pd.
NIK/NIDN: 0007016002

TESTIMONY

I testify that in this publication article there is no plagiarism of previous literary works which been raised to obtain bachelor degree of certain university, nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing is referred to the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

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

Surakarta, 20 July 2021

The Researcher



RIFDAH

A320170159

THE STRUGGLE OF LOUISA TO SUPPORT WILL'S CHOICE IN HIS LIFE REFLECTED IN JOJO MOYES'S ME BEFORE YOU (2012) : A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis sebuah novel berjudul "Me Before You" karya Jojo Moyes yang diterbitkan pada tanggal 05 Januari 2012. Tema dalam cerita ini adalah romansa. Cerita ini menceritakan tentang seseorang yang mengalami kecelakaan untuk mengambil keputusan untuk memilih hidupnya sendiri. Me Before You adalah cerita yang menggambarkan karakter Will Traynor yang memilih untuk mengakhiri hidupnya karena itu adalah pilihan baginya. Asistennya bernama Louisa berpikir bahwa dia akan mengubah nasib atau pilihan Will Traynor tetapi dia menganggap bahwa hidupnya setelah kecelakaan itu "bukan kehidupan nyata" baginya sehingga dia memilih kebebasan mutlak dan ketenangan pikiran dengan pilihan itu. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif. Data yang diambil oleh penulis adalah menggunakan novel, artikel, biografi penulis dan sumber-sumber lain yang mendukung. Dalam analisis penelitian ini peneliti menggunakan teori psychoanalytic approach dari Sigmund Freud. Hasil dari studi ini adalah untuk mengetahui perjuangan seorang asisten bernama Louisa dan Psikologi dari Will yang putus asa dan memilih untuk mengakhiri hidup nya. Selain itu, dari cerita ini banyak mendapatkan pelajaran moral tentang kisah hidup dan aktualisasi diri serta bercerita tentang arti hidup dan arti memilih pilihan ketika sesuatu yang buruk menimpa kita. Selain itu, ketika peneliti menganalisis sosok psikologis Will Traynor yang membuat kita lebih mengetahui peran psikologi dalam karya sastra, salah satunya dalam novel Me Before You.

Kata kunci : Perjuangan, Kebebasan, Romansa, Karakter Utama, Pendekatan Psikoanalitik.

Abstract

This research aims to analysis a novel titled "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes which published on 05 January 2012. The theme in this story is romance. This story tells about someone who had an accident to make a decision to choose his own life. Me Before You is the story that describes the character of Will Traynor who is choosing to end his life because it is a choice for him. His assistant named Louisa thought that he would change the fate or choice of Will Traynor but he considers that his life after the accident was "not real life" for him so he chose absolute freedom and peace of mind with that choice. This research uses qualitative research. The data taken by the author is using novels, articles, author biographies and other supporting sources. In the analysis of this study, the researcher used the psychoanalytic approach of Sigmund Freud. The result of this study is to find out the struggle of an assistant named Louisa and Psychology of Will who despaired and chose to end his life. In addition, 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, when researchers analyze the psychological figure of Will Traynor, it makes us more aware of the role of psychology in literary works, one of which is in the novel Me Before You..

Keywords: Struggle, Freedom, Romance, Main Character, Psychoanalytic Approach

1. INTRODUCTION

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.

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.

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.

2. METHOD

This study uses qualitative methods in the form of Qualitative Research from Moleong (2013) According to Bogdan and Taylor defines the methodology of qualitative as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from people and observable behaviour. The design of this research is document analysis. This research called descriptive qualitative because the researchers explain the findings in the complete description.

The type of data that will be taken from this research is:

- a. Texts: Character, sentences and paragraphs/discourse
- b. Images: Visual illustration and scene captures
- c. Data Sources:

- a) Primary data sources: the material object take from Me Before You novel
- b) Secondary data source: previous studies, other documents related to the study

The object of this research is material object and formal object. In this research, the material object is taken from the novel by Jojo Moyes titled “Me Before You” in 2016. And the formal object In this research, the researcher take the formal object is a topic about the struggle of an assistant named Louisa to support Will’s choice because desperate after the accident.

The technique of data collecting for this research, the researcher using analysis documents from topics that have been selected from the novel. The researcher focuses on the problems that the assistant has with his employer with technique using note taking and paraphrasing techniques.

The technique of data analysis In this research, the researcher using qualitative method to analysis the data. Moreover, the researcher does firstly in reading the novel, make an importance note such as character and information about incident taken between the assistant who struggle because her employer's choice and then analyzes the text and context from the object in the novel.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Different Characteristic of Will Traynor Before and After The Accident

Before the accident, Will was known as a character who has a good personality, or a protagonist person. Protagonist is an image of a character that displays something according to the views and expectations of the reader. This protagonist character describes a good and positive character. Usually the character of the protagonist can seize the reader’s empathy and attention because of the good nature.

Will is still known as a good character, charming, loving, and generous to others. As the evidence text above shows that Will taking a quality time with his girlfriend and following his girlfriend's wish the previous. The time when he was the best Will trait during his life.

After the accident, everything is the opposite of before. The opposite nature of the protagonist. Antagonist is one of the characters in the spotlight who usually causes conflict or problems in the story. The antagonist character is a depiction of a bad and negative attitude. Usually makes the readers hate and irritated. However, this antagonist character is able to

provide tension with various conflict that are expressed so that it grabs the attention of the reader.

However, after an accident Will changes his character. He is someone who acts as an antagonist, someone who is irritable and often hurt himself. Will with feelings and moods that change easily like turning hands, which makes his family confused with his behavior because it always changes according to his mood everyday and that's what makes it the most important thing in the Will family to keep his mood good even though it's difficult.

3.2 Louisa and Will's choice

The research will be shows about the struggle of Louisa to support Will's choice. Where Louisa first learned that Will was going to commit suicide in Switzerland, she was shocked and did not think that Will would do such a thing. Various kinds of actions taken by Louisa to change Will's thinking about it. Teach how to enjoy life even though life has changed. Invite Will on a vacation, watch a classical music concert and much more. Various kinds of efforts have been done by Louisa. One of them is by finding out the little things that Will likes.

In August is his month to visit Dignitas (place to end one's life) in Switzerland and in July is Louisa's opportunity to take Will on vacation. Even from Louisa's intention to make Will change his mind to end his life, before they decided to go on vacation with Louisa to find out some things that a quadriplegic person can't do. Louisa made a list. Louisa and Will went their vacation days together and enjoy it together, they looked happy and enjoyed their vacation, so Louisa's thought that she feels satisfied and would get good news. However, she didn't expect that everything she had been working on for the past six months didn't produce the desired results because Will remained steadfast in his decision, thus making Louisa feel devastated and sad at the end of their vacation.

Therefore Louisa does not want to see Will again after their vacation trip is over but when the last day of the rest of Will's life comes, Will's family wants Louisa to come to see Will one last time even though it hurts. Finally, Louisa went to see Will with a sore heart because her employer who she had cared for for six months would end her life. Although at the end Louisa accepted the fact that Will had left her forever, but Will gave Louisa a letter that made her feel relieved and the contents of the letter brought Louisa to Paris to recommend interesting things so that Louisa was happy and calm to be excited live a normal day.

3.3 Will Traynor Psychology

The despair experienced by Will Traynor is caused by mental health disorders due to the inner conflict experienced. There is a feeling of fear and excitement in Will Traynor. Despair is a form of emotion or feeling that is usually characterized by tired of trying, lack of hope, pessimism. Emotions or feelings of despair are all fatal things and are very wrong because they will not change things for the better. Despair is one of the bad thoughts in human that will damage and harm.

Will is a person who thinks that he has no hope of continuing to live again because he becomes disabled after an accident and he becomes easy to give up so that he thinks that his life is useless and it is difficult to control his emotions so that everyone is affected by emotions and it is difficult to control the properly. His cheerful assistant Louisa tries to help him with keep Will's mood stable and does not spoil the atmosphere with his emotions.

When viewed from the perspective of psychoanalysis, Will is hopeless at the first level from the perspective of psychoanalysis that is a psychic process. This process arises when the 3 elements put together by Sigmund Freud cannot run in balance. As is the case with Will, Despair is self-rejection of a desire that cannot be realized. This makes one of the elements of psychoanalysis not run in a balanced way that stand out in Will's character, namely Id. The id is the thing that underlies a person's personality. The id works by following the pleasure principle. The id seeks instant gratification of human wants and needs. If both are not met, a person can become tense, anxious, or angry. Which is where if the desire is not achieved it makes a person feel annoyed and does not care about others and that nature makes someone feel confused and sometimes will surprise someone who has never met. Because of a difficult and stubborn personality that makes his anger often overflow when all his wishes are not achieved and until the worst he can make the biggest decision, namely despair over a situation.

3.4 Discussion

The researcher discuss how despair the character of Will traynor and How struggle Louisa to support Will's choice. This novel is about a main character who has a personality that makes people confused and hard to guess. At the beginning, before the accident, Will was a kind, loving, wealthy businessman, always enthusiastic and friendly, so he was known as a person who had a positive aura. However, after an accident that happened to Will which left him disabled for life, his personality changed drastically, making his family overwhelmed and worried about him. Immediately, Will's family finds it difficult to take care of Will because of

his ever-changing mood and become stubborn, selfish, angry, and can't have good opinions. However, who would have thought that Will's disability made him suffer greatly because he couldn't work, couldn't travel and couldn't feel the things that normal people do in general.

In this analyzing of psychology, the researcher using psychoanalysis approach from Sigmund Freud (1923) that is *Id, Ego and Superego* to find the inner conflict in this research. According to Sigmund Freud, the key to a healthy personality is a balance between the Id, Ego and Superego.

Based on the results of data analysis, after analyzing the researchers found which inner conflict if Will Traynor is in Will Traynor's personality with 3 elements of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud that cannot work in a balanced way. Researchers found the personality that exists in Will Traynor's character, namely id which the meaning of the id is a kind of mental and instinctual energy that prevents humans from fulfilling basic needs, such as needs: eating, resisting pain or discomfort because it is more dominant in Will's personality so that when the id is not fulfilled or dissatisfied, Will appears a sense of disappointment in Will in the form of sadness and chooses to be more moody and silent about himself which eventually led to a sense of despair that he experienced during his life after an accident that left him disabled for the rest of his life and thus made the decision to commit suicide because of that frustration.

Although Id is famous because of the nature of a person's birth, but Id is a personality category that is closest and the most prominent with this characteristic category in Will's character, to the nature experienced by Will or the possibility that the trait experienced by Will is an innate trait he was born with but is rarely seen because of his good nature, but when he experiences a total accident for a lifetime a life that makes the personality of disappointment and feeling dissatisfied more overflow and more clearly visible in front of people. Due to Will's uncontrollable emotional attitude and stubbornness that can't be denied because his desires in youth can't be fulfilled so he feels anxious and tense which makes his life worse. The researchers only found the most likely, so this study shows that Id is the most suitable and appropriate to describe the character of Will Traynor's character.

By using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic method, people can learn how to recognize a person from that person's personality towards us. Therefore, understanding Freud's theory is necessary so that we can know how to deal with someone who is feeling failed and hopeless because of the many conflicts within him. In this novel, a psychoanalytic phenomenon where in Will's character has an unusual despair and chooses to end his life because he feels that his

life is useless after an accident. But from this, it can be learned that everyone who has bad thoughts must be able to overcome them, although it is not easy to overcome them. Even though it's difficult, don't ever think that life is not useful because every effort with sincerity there will be good things that come.

The researcher compares the similarities and the differences of this study and previous study from Nia Wahyuningsih. The similarities from this study and previous study from Nia is using the same method with qualitative descriptive and the data using to analyze the research. The differences of the study from Wahyuningsih in 2018 is aimed to the main character Will Traynor to analyze and defined how suicide reflected in Will and give an explanation for what Will's trouble to make determine to dedicate suicide by using sociological approach. And to know the Egoistic suicide with combine the clues of the kind of suicide in Will after he suffered Quadriplegia paralysis because the accident using Durkheim theory. Meanwhile this research discusses the Struggle of Louisa to support Will's choice and discusses Will's psychology using the Psychoanalytic approach from Sigmund Freud by using three elements of personality they are id, ego and superego to analyze Will's psychology. This study describes some of the efforts made by Louisa's assistant to take Will on vacation with the intention to change Will's decision to end his life at the Dignitas organization in Switzerland and describe some of the differences in Will's nature before and after the accident that made Will's personality change.

4. CLOSING

Based on the analysis of the previous chapter, the researcher conducted the conclusions as follows ; In the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes, it can be concluded that actually character of Will Traynor is a good person, a person who likes traveling because he is a businessman. Person who likes new things in his life and also likes challenges. It could even be said at the time that Will had a good personality and a healthy psychological. But after an accident happened to Will all the changes are in Will. Ranging from personality to attitude. The incapable paralysis factor made him feel hopeless that he had hurt himself. But the arrival of his new assistant namely Louisa which made Will more excited in living his day for six months before he finally committed suicide in Switzerland. Louisa's arrival can't change Will's life choices, it's just that Louisa's arrival makes Will more excited every day. Louisa's arrival made Will's daily life more pleasant than the previous days. According to Wellek and Warren (1995: 90), the term literary psychology has four meanings. The first is a study of the author's psychology as a type or as a person. The second is the study of the creative process. Third is a

study of the types and psychological laws that apply to literary works. The fourth part discusses the influence of literature on readers (reader psychology). Literary works are considered as a psychological phenomenon, which if coincidence of the text in the form of drama or prose, it can reveal psychiatric aspects through its character. Whereas if it appears in the form of poetry it will definitely appear through arrows and distinctive words (Endraswara, 2003: 96). In addition, when researchers analyzed Will Traynor's psychological figure when he made his life choices by committing suicide in Switzerland using a psychoanalyst approach, it made us know more about the role of psychoanalysts in literary works, one of which is in the novel *Me Before You*. In addition, 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.

REFERENCES

- Endraswara, S. (2003). *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Widyatama.
- Freud, S. (1923). *The Ego and the Id*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Moleong, L. J. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif. Edisi Revisi*. Bandung : PT. Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Wahyuningsih, N. (2018). *Suicide of Will Traynor Reflected In Me Before You Novel By Jojo Moyes (2012): A Sociological Approach In The Durkheim Tradition. Department of English Education School of Teacher Training and Education. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.* .
- Wellek, R. d. (1995). *Teori Kesusastraan (edisi terjemahan oleh Melani Budianta)*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia.