

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Family support is a form of interaction in which there are acts of mutual assistance and acceptance of family members (Friedman, 1998). Family support is an action that needs to be done between family members so they can live together well. Family support can be in the form of attitudes, activities, and family acceptance of family members. The form of support provided by family members can be in the form of information, behavior, or materials that make these family members feel cared for and loved. The family's support in the development of a child is very important. The family does not only provide love and affection but also must ensure that the child lives in a comfortable environment and mentally prepares the child to face adult life in the future. Even after a child grows up, the support from the family, especially parents, will never be separated from the importance of their lives. The family's support has a significant influence on a child's life. The relationship between parents and children is very important for building trust in others. It can also help social, emotional, and cognitive development in children. Many children have difficulty moving on with their lives if their families don't do their part well.

Literature is a work of art created specifically to describe social phenomena that happen in the world. Readers can get the messages and moral values contained therein through literary work. One of the issues that can be made into a film is family support. The authors convey the family's support through their literary works so that people can understand how important it is in a child's life. This issue raised in *Me Before You* movie. *Me Before You* is a romantic film adapted from a novel with the same title. Even though this film mainly presents the romantic story between Will Traynor and Louisa Clark as the main characters

in the film, researchers feel that the writer raises an interesting issue, namely Will's family's support for his decision on assisted suicide

Pauline Sara Jo Moyes, or Jojo Moyes, is a British novelist born on August 4, 1969. Her books have been translated into twenty-eight languages and have sold over 40 million copies worldwide. Several of her works have received the Romantic Novel of the Year Award from the Romantic Novelists' Association. *Me Before You* is one of his well-known novels. It was the first of her novels to appear on the New York Times bestseller list at the same time, sold six million copies, and reached number one in nine different countries. Moyes would later write two sequels to *Me Before You*: *After You* in 2015 and *Still Me* in 2018. However, apart from discussing Louisa and Will's love story, Jojo Moyes also shows the role of the family in Will's decisions about his life in the film.

In 2016, the novel was adapted into a film directed by Thea Sharrock. Thea Sharrock is a theater and film director from England, and *Me Before You* film is Sharrock's debut. The film was released in 2016 and grossed \$207 million worldwide. Income obtained from the *Me Before You* film screening is \$ 56,245,075 in North America and \$ 152,069,111 in other countries. The total income generated by this film reached \$ 208,314,186. This income can exceed the film's production budget of \$ 20 million. *Me Before You* won six awards and six nominations. This film won the Best Romance and Best Romance Poster categories, then was nominated for the Best Romance TV Spot category at the 2016 Golden Trailer Awards. Later in the same year, it won an award at Heartland Film. In 2017, this film won the Top Box Office Films category at the ASCAP Film and Television Music Award and the People's Choice Awards, USA, in the Favorite Dramatic Movie category. This film was also nominated at the Golden Trailer Awards in the Best Romance TV Spot category, the Kids' Choice Awards in the Favorite Soundtrack category, the MTV Movie + TV Awards, and the Teen Choice Award. Emilia Clarke, who played Louisa, was nominated for the Best International Actress category at the Jupiter Award.

Me Before You tell the love story of Louisa, who works as Will's personal nurse, a man who is paralyzed because of a motorbike accident. Will was depressed following the accident and decided to commit assisted suicide since he believed there was no chance for his future. Then, Will met Louisa Clark, who is looking for a job to support her family's finances. She ends up working as Will's personal assistant. At first, Will is cold to Louisa until they finally feel comfortable with each other and fall in love. Louisa knew about Will's decision to end her life and tried to change that decision. Louisa shows sincere love for Will, so Will reverses his decision to commit suicide.

The author focuses on the love story of Louisa and Will and how Will decides his life to end his life because, according to him, when he ends his life, his suffering ends too. In this story, Will and Louisa's parents play an important role. Will family wants to preserve Will's life by trying to make their son happy through Louisa Clark, and Mrs. Traynor hopes that her son will not end his life, but his father wants to let go of his son's decision. His family always seeks the best for this child and accompanies Will until the last moment.

Based on the IMDb website, the film *Me Before You* has a rating of 7.4/10. The audience has pros and cons on the issues raised in the film. User MrHeraclius said that people who criticized it for dealing with the subject of disability should look at what it aims to be and wrote that the film was brilliant and touching and praised the acting of the actors and actresses. User Pattypiazza wrote that users know the true meaning of love from the film *Me Before You*. Users also praised the writer and cast for making the film even more extensive. Besides the positive review, there are also negative reviews written. User cgbarr-73033 writes as a caretaker; the user hates this movie. The message about physical disabilities in this film is disturbing. This film is dangerous for people with disabilities who may have suicidal thoughts after watching this film. Even though there are cons, this film has a satisfactory rating and can be well-received by some people.

The novel and film *Me Before You* get much attention from researchers to make them the object of their research. From the previous studies on this novel

and film, it can be concluded that most of the previous research topics discussed assisted suicide by Will Traynor as an option to end his life. Previous research has examined Will Traynor's character, who is desperate and depressed due to a motorcycle accident, Will Traynor's reasons for making this decision, and how assisted suicide is depicted in the novel. From previous research, no research has discussed the family roles of Will's choice. Unlike most other romance fiction stories where the power of love can change a character's life and has a happy ending, *Me Before You* has a sad ending where in the end, Will Traynor decides to assist suicide. Researchers think the writer, Jojo Moyes and Thea Sharrock describes the family roles in Will's choice differently than in other romance fiction stories. Therefore, researchers want to examine this problem. In this study, research will focus on Will's family support in making decisions about assisted suicide for Will's life choices. Therefore, this research is entitled "FAMILY SUPPORT ON ASSISTED SUICIDE PORTRAYED IN THEA SHARROCK'S *ME BEFORE YOU* (2016)".

B. Research Questions

The major problem of the study is how the family's role is portrayed in Thea Sharrock's *Me Before You* (2012). The problem of the study is the following research questions:

1. What are the indicators of the family support portrayed in Thea Sharrock's *Me Before You* (2016)?
2. How is the family support on assisted suicide depicted in *Me Before You* (2016)?
3. Why did Thea Sharrock address family support on assisted suicide in *Me Before You* (2016)?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the Study is as follows:

1. To identify the indicators of the family support portrayed in Thea Sharrock's *Me Before You* (2016).
2. To describe how the family support on assisted suicide is depicted in *Me Before You* (2016).
3. To reveal the reason why Thea Sharrock specifically addressed family support on assisted suicide in *Me Before You* (2016).

D. Significance

Based on the background and problem questions above, the significance to be achieved in this study is as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

The significance of this study is to find out the family's role portrayed in the *Me Before You* movie by testing existing theories to find new knowledge and as a development of previous research.

2. Practical Significance

- a. The students of English Literature

This study will be additional information and insight into the theory of sociological approach, which will be used in this research for English Literature Students.

- b. Other researchers

This study will provide facilities for other researchers in future research on the novel *Me Before You*, especially using the sociological approach.