

**THE STRUGGLE OF MARIA TO GET A BETTER LIFE IN A NOVEL ELEVEN
MINUTES BY PAULO COELHO (2003): A FEMINIST ANALYSIS**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For Getting Bachelor
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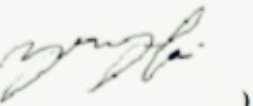
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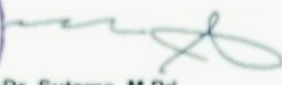
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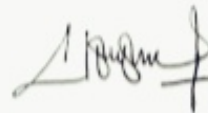
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The Researcher



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Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas tentang perjuangan seorang gadis muda bernama Maria untuk mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik dalam novel *Eleven Minutes* karya Paulo Coelho. Selain itu penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui macam-macam perjuangan wanita untuk mendapatkan cintanya. Analisis berfokus pada Maria, dia adalah karakter utama dalam novel. Maria adalah gadis muda dan lugu yang berasal dari Brazil sejak kecil dia selalu bermimpi bertemu cinta sejatinya dan mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui perjuangan Maria untuk mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik seperti yang terlihat dalam novel *Eleven Minutes*. Penelitian ini dibuat untuk menganalisis dan mengetahui bagaimana perjuangan seorang gadis untuk mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik bagi dirinya dan keluarganya. Implikasi dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memberikan informasi, gambaran dan pemahaman lebih lanjut tentang perjuangan wanita. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan berfokus pada teori Virginia Woolf. Data yang digunakan adalah data dari novel, meliputi kalimat dan paragraf. Penulis menemukan dua permasalahan yang menjadi pembahasan utama dalam skripsi ini yang pertama, Bagaimana karakter Maria dideskripsikan dalam novel ini yang kedua, Bagaimana Maria berjuang untuk mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik. Implikasi dari penelitian ini adalah untuk memberikan lebih banyak informasi, deskripsi, dan pemahaman tentang perjuangan perempuan.

Kata kunci: Sebelas Menit, perjuangan, perempuan, novel

Abstract

This study discusses the struggle of a young girl named Maria to get a better life in the novel *Eleven Minutes* by Paulo Coelho. In addition, this study aims to find out the various struggles of women to get their love. The analysis focuses on Maria, she is the main character in the novel. Maria is a young and innocent girl from Brazil who has always dreamed of meeting her true love and getting a better life. The purpose of this research is to find out Maria's struggle to get a better life as seen in the novel *Eleven Minutes*. This study was made to analyze and find out how a girl struggles to get a better life for herself and her family. The implication of this research is to provide further information, description, and understanding of women's struggles. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method and focuses on Virginia Woolf's theory. The data used is data from novels, including sentences and paragraphs. The author finds two problems that become the main discussion in this thesis, the first, how the character of Maria is described in this novel, the second, how Maria struggles to get a better life. The implication of this research is to provide more information, description, and understanding of women's struggles.

Keywords: Eleven Minutes, struggle, women, novel

1. INTRODUCTION

In this study, the writer used topics that are closely related to everyday life. The writer takes the topic of someone's struggle to get a better life. In everyday life, we often find cases like this, where someone who has to fight for a better life, we know that life is not always filled with beautiful things but also difficulties will always come at any time. We are just human beings who can only accept every problem that comes. There will be some problems that come into our lives, all we can do is struggle to face them and convince ourselves that we can face them and get the best results from our struggles. Such a condition can also be found in a work of literature such as a novel.

Novels are long works of narrative fiction with a hint of realism. Often it was in prose and published as a single book. The word 'novel' comes from the Italian word 'novella' which means "new". Similar to a short story, a novel has several features such as character representation, dialogue, setting, plot, climax, conflict, and resolution. However, it doesn't take all the elements to be a good novel. The title of the novel used by the researcher is *Eleven Minutes*. The author of this novel is Paulo Coelho, The type book is Teen & Young Adult Death & Dying Fiction. The publisher of this novel is Rocco Publishing, published in 2003. The number of pages is 360 pages and the book size is 5.5 x 8.2 inches.

Literature reflects various experiences, ideas, passions, people in everyday life which are expressed in various forms and styles of literary works. Because literature comes directly from human life, it can increase our knowledge and experience about human problems including values, morals, culture, and human interests. Wellek and Warren (1956: 15) said that literature is

a creative activity and art without the value of literary arts will only become a type of writing, along with scientific works, reports, etc. Millar (1970: 18) says it also increases human knowledge or insight, enriches their enthusiasm, and makes them more civilized. This can help them understand the condition and qualities of others. Therefore, literature helps humans to develop, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective basis for knowledge and understanding. It connects them to the wider culture, a philosophical and religious world from which they come.

Maria is a Brazilian girl who has simple goals: meet the ideal man (rich, handsome, smart), get married (wear a wedding dress), have two children (who as adults become famous people), and stay at home. which is beautiful (with views of the sea). However, life leads Maria away from what she aspires to be. Maria was born in a rural area of Brazil with only one cinema, one nightclub, and one bank. His father was just a traveling salesman and his mother a tailor.

Her first love is a boy who walks to school every day with her, which unfortunately she doesn't have time to share her feelings with the boy because she is moving out of town. His only memory of his first love is when the child finally scolds Maria, asking if it is okay to borrow a pencil. However stupid Maria, who was surprised and unprepared for such questions, actually accelerated her steps and left the child. A regret for him, and he awaits the next opportunity with the pencil he carries. But unfortunately, there was no second chance for him. Maria's teenage life went on like most teenagers in her place. But Maria grew up to be a beautiful, charming, and flirty girl. Because she is well aware of the influence of her beauty. She works in a fabric shop. Even the owner of the cloth fell in love with her and intended to propose to her. One day, Maria goes to the city for a vacation, where she meets a Swiss man who offers her a job to make her

life better, as a model. Maria, since the incident with her first love, realized that there was no second chance for her to make a decision. After he came home and talked to his parents, he agreed to the offer and he went to Switzerland, a name that had always been known only from school lessons and had never imagined how or where it would be. However, it turns out that in Geneva, Maria was not used as a model, but as a nightclub dancer, with a salary that did not match, not even up to one-tenth of the contract promised. In her diary, Maria wrote:

"I can choose: a victim of this world or an adventurer in search of treasure. It remains how I view my life."

Maria decided to take a French course. There she fell in love with a man. Their relationship lasted three weeks, until one night Maria decided to take a vacation and take a trip to the mountains outside Geneva. As a result, Maria was fired because she was considered an unkind role model for other girls in her place of work. Her lover somewhere, maybe he has returned to his hometown. And a few months after her severance pay ran out, that's where she started working as a prostitute. Maria has the principle that she will only be in this profession for a year. After the money is collected, she will return to his village and start a new life there. To his parents, she announced that her job was fun and that he was getting enough money.

Then a painter named Ralf Hart appeared in Maria's life. Starting when he was sitting in a cafe, Ralf was painting a famous chemist. He asked Maria to wait a moment because he was going to paint Maria, he said. Ralf was very interested in Maria because he admitted to seeing the light from inside her. As soon as introductions began between the two, Maria confessed that her job was a prostitute. Their meeting didn't just stop at that moment. Several times they met, it made Maria realize that she was in love with him. There too, Maria's emotional shields were tested. For how long she was doing her job, Maria only considered sex as an obligation of work,

not something sacred, or even the union of two souls. And also whether his commitment to return home will be fulfilled, or will he follow his true love.

The novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *Eleven Minutes* tells about something taboo namely sex. The story tells of Maria a young girl from the interior of Brazil who dreams of getting true love and the man is very rich and then looks like a prince charming. At the beginning of this story is she comes from a low-cost family so that she wants to show her mother if she was a success. The problem is she failed to get the dream. She is desperate and decided to become a prostitute because she wanna got a lot of money. However, her adolescence gives her bad experiences towards love relationships and sexual relationships. Because of that, she tends to look at love as the most painful thing in the world which brings only sadness. She tries all she can to do that she can have a better life. Therefore, on her journey, she struggles to find her better life in dealing with her needs.

I think the story is very interesting because it tells about the life journey of a person who is looking for her identity. And also I can see Maria's problems in life. In this study, the writer chose the title "THE STRUGGLE OF MARIA TO GET A BETTER LIFE IN A NOVEL ELEVEN MINUTES BY PAULO COELHO (2003): A FEMINIST ANALYSIS"

2. METHOD

This research is included in the qualitative study because this research collects new studies on previous issues that have been carried out by several researchers and then relates the opinions of researchers in their research by adding some ideas and perceptions of the authors to make a new study about Paulo. Coelho's novel *Eleven Minutes* in the author's style. There are 2 types of data sources, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data is a novel by Paulo Coelho. Formal attractions in this study are the subject that will be discussed. The population in this study is a film that contains issues of gender equality and psychology related to Maria's life in

this novel. The novel *Eleven Minutes* was taken as the main sample to be used as a material object. While secondary data is data that is quoted/taken from other researchers related to primary data. In this study, the object of research is the types of feminism approaches in the novel *Eleven Minutes*, the researcher also finds the above objects in dialogue and it can be seen from Maria who pursues happiness and wants to have a better life. The data in this study is dialogue. and the actions of the main characters in Paulo Coelho's novel *Eleven Minutes*.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Description of Maria

There are two types of characters, according to Henkle (1977: 92-93), major and secondary. A major character becomes the novel's focal point. In the novel, he or she plays an essential part. A secondary character is a character who appears infrequently in the narrative and assists the main character. Maria is classified as a major character in Henkle's theory since she plays a significant part in the narrative. The novel revolves around her. Chatman (1993: 60) distinguished between two types of personalities: round and flat personalities. A round character is referred to as a complicated character since it shows several personality qualities. Furthermore, a round character is similar to individuals in real life, who are extremely complex and unpredictable. Maria is regarded as a figure with a complex personality. She possesses a variety of complicated and dominating characteristics. She transforms as a result of the various things she encounters in her life's path. She is a beautiful, brave, smart, and lonely girl.

And so Maria's adolescent years passed. She grew prettier and prettier, and her sad, mysterious air brought her many suitors.

For a while they communicated in this comfortable and meaningless way—smile here, smile there—until finally the man took a small red dictionary from his pocket, and said in a foreign accent, “Bonita”—“pretty”.

3.2 Maria Struggle for a Better Life

Every human who lives in this world always has problems in their own life. In this case, there is Maria whose life is full of problems and obstacles to achieve her dreams. However, Maria always tries to continue to achieve what she dreams of and motivates herself not to give up easily to get a better life. This novel describes Maria who struggles to get a better life. She has

gone through many obstacles in his life. In his struggles, she has had many experiences that she used as lessons to change herself and her life for the better.

Maria is an innocent girl who dreams of getting a better life and meeting the prince of her dreams, but now she is a high-class prostitute. On her journey to get a better life he faces many problems. Many young people feel stress as a threat and less fun (Lazarus 2006). Therefore, Maria already knew how to deal with any problems that occurred. In addition, her motivation to have a better life makes Maria keep trying and fighting for her goals so as not to lose her way to achieving her life goals. Motivation is an internal process that determines the direction, persistence, and energy of goal-directed action, according to Smith (282). Maria wants to survive, especially when it comes to her social condition and her desire to travel.

Like all prostitute, she was born both innocent and a virgin, and as an adolescent, she dreamed of meeting the man of her life (rich, handsome, intelligent), of getting married (in a wedding dress), having two children (who would grow up to be famous) and living in a lovely house (with a sea view).

She worked two years solidly, paid money each month to her parents for her keep, and, at last, she did it! She saved up enough money to go and spend a week's holiday in the city of her dreams, the places where film and TV stars live, the picture-postcard image of her country: Rio De Janeiro!.

3.3 Maria Struggle for a Better Life

Maria needs to work hard for what she wants. She knows she is just a poor Brazilian girl. As a result, she seeks to make a better life for herself. Maria has to fight for a better life throughout her journey. She has to deal with issues in her personal life. Frankl (1970:45) describes the meaning of life as something that is personal and that can vary over time as circumstances change. Individuals should be held accountable if they are asked what the meaning of life is at any moment or in any scenario. Maria's struggles are visible in her profession as a Brazilian laborer, a salsa dancer, a model, and a prostitute.

She knew how attractive she was, and although she rarely listened to her mother, there was one thing her mother said that she never forgot: "Beauty, my dear, doesn't last." With this mind,

she continued to keep her boss at arm's length, though without putting him off completely, and this brought her a considerable increase in salary.

3.4 The struggle to Accept Life's Reality

The reality of life and one's limitations require a struggle to be able to accept it with patience and a sincere heart. Besides coming from a low-cost family, Maria is also sad because she has a very bad love story just because her love story always fails and never finds true love. Frankl (1970:45) states that the meaning of life is something personal and can change from time to time and changes in life situations take place. Individuals seem to be asked what the meaning of life is at any time or situation and can then be accounted for.

In the novel *Eleven Minutes*, Maria is described as a girl who was born in a low-cost family in the interior of Brazil. Maria has a very beautiful face, but her life is less fortunate. Since graduating from school, Maria has had to work and help her parents to meet their needs. In addition, she works to make his dreams come true. Maria also has an unfortunate love story. A fact of life that must be accepted by a beautiful girl.

4. CLOSING

Maria is a woman who is struggling for a better life for herself. She is a beautiful young woman who can attract boys in a variety of ways. She has been regarded as a smart, brave, and lonely woman. Maria knew that because she came from low-cost family background, she would have to work hard to provide for her family. She has worked in a variety of capacities, including as a shop assistant in Brazil and as an artist, before deciding to go to Switzerland. However, she does end herself as a salsa dancer in a cheap club in Brazil and then tries her hand at modeling. She also chooses to be a prostitute because she was unable to find a job that was suitable for her. Her needs for love and belonging are fulfilled when she meets Ralf, a painter who teaches her about love from a new perspective. She is aware of all the consequences and is prepared to cope with them. She is happy in her current position.

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