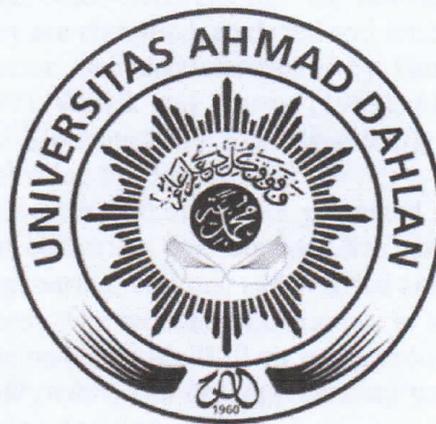


**THE MOTIVATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER TO SURVIVE  
AS REFLECTED IN JOJO MOYES' *ME BEFORE YOU* :  
A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**S1 THESIS**

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment of the Degree of  
*Sarjana Pendidikan* in English Education**



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### **ABSTRACT**

This research entitled The Motivation of The Main Character to Survive as Reflected in Jojo Moyes *Me Before You*: A Psychological Approach is intended to: (1) to describe the characterization of the main character as reflected in the novel, (2) to describe the motivation for the main character, (3) to describe the moral value that can be taken from the novel. This research employs the library research in the sense that the researcher visited some libraries (Universitas Ahmad Dahlan).

There are two kinds of data in this research: (1) the primary data and (2) secondary data. The primary data are taken from the novel *Me Before You* and the secondary data are taken from Psychological books, and some other resources that are relevant or support the primary data. After the data are gathered, they are classified, analyzed and interpreted by using several theories namely: the theory of character and characterization by Hornby (1995) and the theory of Psychological by Hornby (1997), Wellek and Warren (1989), Abrams (1999), theory of survive Hornby (2000), the theory of Motivation by Maslow (1970), Murray (1964), Papalia Diane (1985), and the theory of Moral value by Hornby (1995).

Some of the important research findings are presented as follows. First, the novel *Me Before You* contains two main characters are; Louisa Clark and Will Traynor. Louisa Clark's characterization is hardworking, caring, curious, and worried and Will's characterization is kind hearted, emotional, and pessimist. The motivation of Louisa to survive Will are: (1) looking for information related to quadriplegia (2) taking Will on series excursions. And the moral value that can be taken from the novel *Me Before You* are: appreciating your life for happiness, and being surrender not a solution in making decision.

Keywords: *Characterization, Motivation, Me Before You.*

# INTRODUCTION

## A. Background of the Study

In daily life, people have many kinds of problems. Problem can make someone feel frustrated and even decide to give up. Problem is something must be solved. There are many problems in this life, such as personal problem, family problem, social problem and so on. People need motivation to solve the problem.

Nevertheless, we as human have always try to get up from the downturn. One thing we can do is strengthening our motivation. Motivation is a reason or incentive for someone to act. Getting motivation needs some effort. We know that motivation does not come by itself. The novel tells about the effort of a girl who wants to convince the man to change his life, open his mind and try to survive for his condition.

Motivation is one of the crucial aspect of human life. According to Robert (1978:24) “Motivation is broadly concerned with contemporary determinant of choice (direction), persistence, and vigor of goal-directed behavior”. In other word, motivation is a desire and direction that are able to move people to do a particular action. It has a power to encourage people to do something in order to achieve a certain goal. Having motivation is very important in human life.

Talking about motivation, there are many kinds of motivation that can be found, such as motivation to survive. According to Webster’s Dictionary (2002:2303) survive is to remain alive or in existence (as after another’s death, or a time, event, disaster, development or the end of the condition). It means that survive is a condition when people are safe from difficult situation.

From the topic discussed above, there are several reasons why the researcher is interested to analyze a novel entitled *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. First, the novel is written by a famous author, Jojo Moyes. She is a British journalist and the author of the novels published from 2002 to the present. She is one of only a few authors to have won the Romantic Novelist Associations Romantic Novel of the Year Award twice-in 2004 for *Foreign Fruit* and in 2011 for *The Last Letter From Your*

Lover. *Me Before You* has been nominated for book of the year at the UK Galaxy Book Awards.

Second, the novel *Me Before You* has an interesting story. The novel tells about an ordinary girl from the English country side named Louisa Clark a 26 years old. She was fired from her job and in a full of desperation, she finds a job to become a care assistant for a wealthy and former head of the company, Will Traynor, who is paralyzed from the neckdown (quadriplegic) after being hit by a motorcycle. Will Traynor is moody, rude, and bossy. Louisa gives Will motivation for enjoys his life. Will also teaches Louisa to expand her horizon and exploring her life with her competence.

Under Louisa's care, Will becomes more communicative and open minded as they share each experiences. Louisa know Will decision to end his life through Dignitas, a Swiss based assisted suicide organization. Knowing Will's attempt, Louisa doesn't want to continue her job as a caregiver for Will, but Will's mother begs to Louisa to change Will's decision to end his life, because she knows that Louisa is getting closer to Will. Then Louisa begins researching for the technologies and tries to search any information about a quadriplegic. Louisa also looking for outing that might make Will interest to going out and see what he can do with his condition. But at the end, Louisa cannot change Will is decision to end his life. After any kind of trip, Louisa decided to come to the Dignitas. On the night of Will's flight to Switzerland, Louisa visits him one last time. They agree that the past six months have been the best in their lives.

### **Formulation of The Problem**

Based on the background, the identification, and the limitation of the problem of this study, the researcher formulates the problem as follows:

1. What are the characterization of the main character of the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes?
2. What are the motivation of the main character of the novel to survive observed psychologically?

3. What are moral values can be taken from the novel?

### **Objective of The Study**

The objectives of the study presents in answering the question mentioned above, those are:

1. To describe the characterization of the main character from the novel *Me Before You*
2. To describe the motivation of the main character
3. To describe the moral values can be taken from the novel

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Literature is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Derived from the Latin word *litterature* meaning "writing formed with letters," literature most commonly refers to works of the creative imagination, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and in some instances, journalism, and song.

For many, the word *literature* suggests a higher art form; merely putting words on a page doesn't necessarily equate to creating literature. A canon is the accepted body of works for a given author. Some works of literature are considered canonical, that is, culturally representative of a particular genre (poetry, prose, or drama).

From the statement above, this research can be included into Literature because it discusses about identify the characters' motivations for their actions through the use of literary theory using psychological.

### **Psychological Approach**

According to Hornby (1997:697) “ the word psychological derives from Greek *psyche* and *logos*. “*Psyche*” means soul, spirit of human mind and mentally, while “*logos*” means a science. Psychology means science study of human soul, spirit, nature or mind in process. Psychology can be used to help a literary work (Subhan, 2015:57)

The most appropriate meaning of psychology study which will be used by the researcher to analyze the story is psychological study of the reader. It can be concluded that the literary work has the power to steer the reader's heart and motivation

## **Character and Characterization**

### **1. Character**

Character is the first element of the novel that should be understood by the reader. The reader will usually pay more attention in the major character because it plays a significant role in the story of the novel.

Character is part of combination in qualities of person that differ someone with others (Hornby, 1995:196). Character refers to disposition person in a story such as a novel, a drama, and short story. It is revealed by how a person talks to others in a dialogue and responds to conflict through description.

Subhan (2010:89) in *A guide to literary criticism*, says characters in the novel (prose) can be divided into two groups: (1) major or main characters, and (2) minor character. The readers will usually pay more attention to the major characters, because the major characters play an important role in the story or in the novel. The major characters can further be analyzed into three groups: the protagonist, the very central character, or the hero (heroine), (2) the antagonist or the enemy (or the challenger) of the protagonist, and (3) the companion or the supporter of the protagonist.

## **2. Characterization**

Characterization is one of the substances which develop the work from the inside of the novel. Character is always accompanied by characterization. This substance is required in composition of a literary work. Through the characterization, the reader can understand about each individual character, whose life is being told by the author. They cannot be separated because of characterization.

Characterization is the action or process of characterizing, especially the description of human character in novel, plays, etc. (Hornby, 1995:196). Characterization is the most important in embodying the good story which will give both mental and physical features of individuals or figures involved in the story.

Subhan (2010:15) states that based on the characterization, characters in the novel can be divided into two groups, namely, (a) flat character and (b) round character.

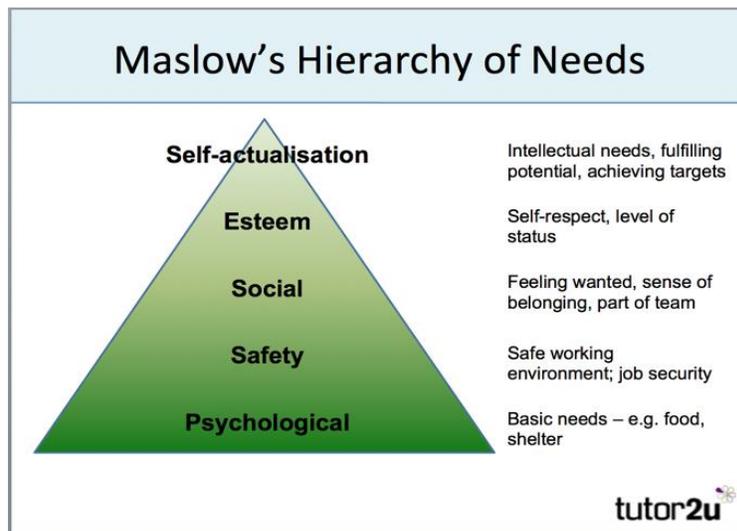
### **A. Theory of Motivation**

Motivation in everyone is not the same and different with each other. In addition, it needs the knowledge about the understanding and essence of the motivation, moreover the capability to create the situation so that it can be creating the motivation for the people to do something that they like.

#### **1. Maslow's Theory (1970)**

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a theory in psychology, proposed by Abraham Maslow in his 1943 paper *A Theory of Human Motivation*. Maslow subsequently extended the idea to include his observations of human's innate curiosity. His theories parallel many other theories of human developmental psychology, all of which focus on describing the stages of growth in human.

An interpretation of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, represented as a pyramid with the more basic needs at the bottom



#### 1. Physiological Needs

The fulfillment of physiological needs. The basic human needs are also called biological needs. It means that this physiological needs to the people life, such as air, clothes, food, house, hunger, thirst, salary, etc. it has a tendency to recur, for example money represents the best thing to satisfy the physiological needs.

#### 2. Safety Needs

When the physiological needs are taken care of safety needs are important. This safety needs come after getting the physiological needs. These safety needs are related with the physiological fear of loss of job and hazard. These needs are not from physical only, but also mental, psychological and intellectual. People want to get the protection from such of fear, such as security of job, financial reserves, medical insurance, etc.

#### 3. Social Needs

These social needs are third layer when the physiological needs and safety needs are largely taken care of. Social needs are also called the love needs. Social needs are those related to interaction with other, such as relationship, affection, giving and receiving a love, etc. people will try to effort for meaningful relations with others when social needs are coming.

People feel content if they become a part of society and are accepted by the society.

#### 4. Needs of Self-Esteem

These needs of Self-esteem are forth layer when the physiological needs, safety needs, and social needs are fully completed. Actually, According to Maslow, only a small percentage of the population reaches the level of self- actualization.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **A. Data Collecting Method**

The collecting method is documentary, the data are collected from some sources of the research, the researcher does some steps, there are:

#### 1. Visiting Library

The researcher visits the library, reads the primary sources and the secondary sources and make notes.

#### 2. Reading Sources

The researcher reads the novel and observes the novel carefully, repeatedly, and then researcher records the data cards. The researcher also uses other sources from the internet.

#### 3. Writing Data

While visiting library, the researcher reads the primary sources and secondary sources and then writes down the data needed to complete the researchers statements related to the topic.

### **B. Data Analyzing Method**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. In qualitative research, the data collected are words. It means that the data explanation given by the researcher uses some statements, sentences, or descriptions. It aims to get the clear description about the study by choosing, considering, defining, and fixed data.

## **PLOT OF THE NOVEL AND RESEARCH FINDING**

### **A. Plot of The Novel**

The plot is the sequence of events that made up a storyline. They are two kinds: they are Progressive and Regressive of the novel. The plot of the novel is progressive plot. Based on Tennyson's theory in Subhan's book, the structure of the plot of the novel contains five parts; there are, (1) exposition, (2) rising action, (3) climax, (4) falling action, (5) denouement/resolution.

### **B. The Motivation of the Main Character to Survive**

In this analysis the researcher would present the action from Louisa to give motivation and convince Will Traynor to survive.

Based on the novel the researcher found several motivations of the main character to survive. It is interesting to analyze because dealing with the pain of losing is not easy to do. Many people can't handle pain of loss negative emotion and depressions. It is called; negative instinct. People that could not deal with their pain will tend to think that his/her is useless. Therefore, the person tends to make a destruction to other people and even to him/herself by committing suicide ( Subhan, 2015).

The researcher uses Maslow's to discuss the purpose and function of motivation, and the influence the main character to survive.

Based on Maslow's theory of Motivation, there are four motivations that the researcher can find the novel.

## 1. Physiological Needs

Physiological needs are basic; the body craves food, liquid, sleep, oxygen, sex, freedom movement, and moderate temperature. When any of these are in short supply, we feel distressing tension of hunger, thirst, fatigue, and shortness of breath, sexual frustration, confinement, or the discomfort of being too hot or cold. In another way, can say that place we are living now (world/earth) is our need (Maslow, 1942:271-272). The quotation that proves the theory as follows:

“Just think about it. Tomorrow is good Friday. I’ll tell will you have family commitment if you really just need sometime. Take the Bank holiday weekend to think about it. But please. Come back.” (Moyes, 2012:136)

The statement above shows that the Will’s mother asks to Louisa to change Will’s mind. The quotation proves that one of Will’s motivation is that he wants to make his family calm.

## 2. Safety Needs

Safety needs based on Maslow theory (1942:271-272) define an act to search comfort, stability, and security. In terms of the psychological side, safety needs are the condition when someone feels safe and comfortable in the certain environment or person. It can be seen in the statement below:

“Don’t worry”, I said, trying to keep my voice even. It’s fine, we’ll go some other time. I am sorry I know you were really looking forward to it. I placed a hand on his forehead, smoothed his hair back. Shh. Really. It’s not important. Just get well”. (Moyes, 2012:334)

The statement above that Lou makes Will feel calm and comfortable by Lou’s hand. Lou is trying to convince Will so that Will gets well.

The reason why statement or quotation above shows the safety need is when Lou places a hand on Will's forehead and convince for Will.

### 3. Love and Belonging Needs

Love is a powerful motive for someone to struggle or do something and belongingness is the human state of being an essential part of something. After reading the novel, the researcher found that the novel is about love. The whole story of the novel is about the power of love that influences human being. In Maslow theory stated that giving love is seeking to fill a void by understanding and accepting selected others. Receiving love is a way of staving off the pangs of loneliness and rejection. It means that people always try to keep the people that he/she loves in order to maintain the feel to be loved by the other.

It is that love is the motivation of main character to survive. Most of the story in this novel tells about the power of love, which is family loves, friends and so on. The statement that proves the theory as follows:

“I looked up and into his eyes. “Will Traynor” I said softly. Here’s the thing. I think we can do. “No, Clark” he began. “I think we can do all sorts of things. I know this isn’t a conventional love story. I know there all sorts of reasons I shouldn’t even be saying what I am. But I love you. I do. And I think you might even love me a little bit.” (Moyes, 2012:359)

From the statement above, it can be seen that Lou is begging Will to make decision of his life. She wants Will to survive, but Will looks surrender about his condition.

Ten days later, Louisa and Will finally going on trip together with Nathan. They spend their time with a lot of fun. The last night on the trip, Louisa and Will spend their time on the beach. Will starts to tell Louisa about his decision on going to Dignitas. Louisa tries to change Will's mind, she tells about what she had done about the research and talking to other quadriplegics. Louisa tells Will that he was changed her life.

“If you think it’s too weird with me being employed by you, then I’ll leave and I’ll work somewhere else. I wanted to tell you. I’ve applied for a college course. I’ve done loads of research on the internet, talking to other quads and caregivers of quads, and I have learned so much, so much about how to make this work. So I can do that, and just to be with you. You see? I’ve thought of everything, researched everything. This is how I am now. This is your fault. You changed me.” I was half laughing “you’ve turned me into my sister. But with better dress sense” (Moyes, 2012:360)

But, Will feels the different way. Will loves his life before the accident, he likes his job and his adventures. He can’t accept his condition for being quadriplegic and can’t do anything. He admits that these six months were the best thing and the most wonderful thing in his life. Then he asks Louisa to come with him to Switzerland. Louisa can’t believe what she heard from Will. Louisa is angry that night, she confess her feelings to Will and he just cannot accept that.

“Don’t say another word”. I was choking.” You are so selfish, Will. So stupid. Even if there was the remotest possibility of me coming with you to Switzerland....even if you thought I might, after all I’ve done for you, be someone who could do that, is that all you can say is No, you are not enough for me. And now I want to come watch the worst thing you can possibly imagine; the thing I have dreaded ever since I first out about it. Do you have any idea what are you asking out about it. Do you have any idea what are you asking for me?” (Moyes, 2012:363)

### **C. Moral Value of the Novel**

After reading and analyzing the novel, the researcher found some moral values that can be taken. The moral values that can be taken over through the novel is about life. Moral value is usually presented directly or indirectly in the story. Each story always has moral

value, such as on the novel *Me Before You*. There are moral value that can be taken from the novel, as follows:

1. Support to each other

As Louisa's father said to her, as much as went to change the people in our lives, as much as we want to show them the way, it is not simple. The researcher honestly believes that people change the people, but people cannot be changed if they do not want to change. It maybe not understood the reasons why what people do that, and their decision is somehow frustrating. However, support and loving them through the good and bad is ultimately worth gift.

2. Appreciating your life for happiness

As Will Traynor said to Louisa Clark before he dies "You only get one life". It is your duty to live it as fully as possible". It has similar meaning like "You only live once" so you should cherish every moment and take the advantage of every opportunity you have received in life, because in the end, we only regret the chances that we do not take.

3. Giving up is not a solution

People must have problems in their life. Life is like a circle which always rotate every time. Sometimes people can be at the top, but there is the time when people get the down on their life. The novel *Me Before You* shows how life can change. Louisa feels that Will is having a good time with her, but in the end Will stays with his decision to end his life.

## CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel through psychological approach and based on research findings in chapter four, the researcher makes the conclusion as follows:

First, the researcher analyzed the plot of the novel is progressive plot, including exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. Exposition happened when Louisa resign from Buttered bun the she gets new job as a caregiver for a quadriplegic and then meet Will Traynor. The rising action is defined when Will Traynor acts so rude to Louisa. He forbids Louisa to talk to him. The climax happened when Louisa knows Will signing up for end his life in Dignitas, a society located in Swiss that accompanied suicide to those people who suffer from severe physical. In falling action, Louisa tells her parents about Will's decision and her fail changes his decision. Then resolution of the story is when Louisa goes to Swiss following Will Traynor.

Second, these are several efforts of Louisa Clark to convince Will Traynor to survive that can be analyzed from the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. This is looking for any information related to quadriplegia to make list for an adventure for Will.

Third, there are some moral values that can be taken from the novel *Me Before You*. They are: support or give motivation is the best way to love someone, living boldly makes life with no regret, and giving up is not solution.

## SUGGESTION

Reading novel is a pleasant activity. The readers will get some knowledge such as the way of life, history, culture and moral values from the novel. In addition, it will also enrich and improve the reader English ability especially in mastering vocabulary, grammar rules and strengthening English Structure. It will also develop the positive attitude of reading to have good reading habit.

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