

CHAPTER III

The Effect of Friendship on Sam Oliver McQueen's Character in Sally Nicholls's *Ways to Live Forever*

This chapter analyzes the data which refer to the research problems in chapter 1. The researcher analyzes the novel *Ways to Live Forever* in three parts. The first part, the researcher discusses the characterization of Sam before he met Felix, then the description of friendship between Sam McQueen and Felix Stranger. Here, the researcher applies New Criticism and the concept of friendship from Aristotle to describe a whole of friendship's condition between Sam and Felix. The last part is discussion on effect of Sam and Felix friendship toward Sam's character. The researcher applies psychology approach from B.F Skinner, to reveal the changing character of Sam. The data are from the form of paragraph, the conversation among the characters, or in direct and indirect quotation from the utterances of the author.

1.1 The Characterization of Sam Oliver McQueen Before Meets Felix Stranger

To emphasise the readers understand and get clear description on character's personality, an author can follow nine ways of characterization which are described by Murphy (161-171), such as; personal descriptions, character as seen by another, speech, past life, conversation of each others, reaction, direct comments, thought, mannerism. The researcher starts the analysis with

characterization of Sam, who becomes the center discussion in the novel. It can be seen by the domination of Sam's character in the whole story, because the form of *Ways to Live Forever* novel is like a private diary belonging to Sam McQueen. In this part the researcher focused to Sam's character before he met Felix and got the effects from his friendship, as Robert DiYanni said that, from the beginning until the end of the story a major character is called dynamic character because they are changing (55). The characterization of Sam in this novel show by some parts, such as:

Sam lives with a family who love him very much. They are; Sam's mum who was very strong and sensitive toward her son, Sam's daddy who was very quiet and a little stiff but in fact he was very care toward his son's condition, a younger sister named Ella, who was an annoying girl which sometimes becomes a good girl, and Sam's grandmother who was always warm with Sam. In *Ways to Live Forever* Sam was described as an eleven years old boy who got leukemia since he was six years old. He has got leukemia in three times, including when he has met Felix. Leukemia is a dangerous disease for a child as old as Sam McQueen. In this condition, Sam must adapted with his condition and also his environment. One of the way to adaptation with his condition, Sam tried to find out what is leukemia exactly. It can be found on the paragraph below;

Leukemia is a type of a cancer. What happens is your body makes too many white blood cells. White blood cells are like your own personal resistance army. They fight injections and stuff. But when you get leukemia they take over and the other blood cells get scrunched up and can't do all the things they're supposed to do. So, you might get very pale or get loads of bruises or nosebleeds that won't stop or you feel tired all the time (Nichols 49).

However, behind his condition, Sam has his own ways to pass his days. One of them is creates some fantastic stories about his life. Besides the fact of his disease, he also tried to learns of how science has the role to his life, and he also has many wishes to make about death. That is why Sam becomes an imaginative boy and curious about the fact of death. As the quotation below;

[illegible]

functions to friendships. They state that when a child lacks a function in a friendship they will experience confusion and conflict and without comprehending the source of their frustration will lash out in a variety of ways. Those functions :Companionship, Stimulation, Physical support, Ego support, Social comparison and Intimacy or affection. Based on the concept of friendship from Aristotle, the researcher has proved that the friendship between Sam and Felix is categorized as friendship based on goodness. As the result, it can be seen from their relationship. Such as; they are benefit to one another, they please to one another, they also care to one another.

1.2.1 Benefit to One Another

1) Sam to Felix

One of the function of friendship is Companionship. It mean that friendship will give a chance to every person to operate their functions to another as a friend. They will do it, when both of them do an activity. As a friend, means someone should give and sacrifice their life in aspect of time, energy, and even the voluntary cost to common good (Gottman and Parker 130). This function was described when the first time Sam met Felix. In this part, Sam started his function as a friend who gives and sacrifice his time and energy to help Felix getting the cigarettes. There are some funny actions when Sam stays in this situations. It happened last year, when Sam was in a hospital for six whole weeks. There has been a couple days when he met Felix in the hospital. It was evening and Sam was lying on his bed with the door of his room opened. In his room, he was feeling

I reckoned he was putting it out, mostly, because he really didn't need to do all that forwards-and-backwardsing just to look round a corner. I leaned forward in bed, wondering what he was going to do next. (Nicholls 32).

He'd only been gone half a minute when he came back, reversing frantically. Only this time he came right up to my room and in through the door. He scrabbled for the door-edge with fingers, caught it, and flung it back.

[illegible]

I went shy. Felix didn't. Felix isn't ever shy. I would never have barged into some strange kid's room without asking, but he wasn't bothered at all. (Nicholls 33)

At Sam's first impression, Felix was indicated as a boy who has no rules. It was looked from his ways to meet Sam in Sam's room. Without permission he came to the other's room directly, although Felix was older than Sam. It becomes one of evidences that Felix has different behavior from Sam. Sam still has the manner on how to meet somebody else but Felix does not.

“Why’re you hiding?” I said.

“I am going to the shop,” said the boy. He fumbled in the cloth pocket on the side of his wheelchair and pulled something out,... It was a packet of cigarettes.

“Where did you get those from?” I said, staring.

“The machine in my uncle’s pub,” he said. “Only I’m out and I? Want some more.” He put the empty packet lovingly back into the pocket. “If I can get past them,”-he jerked his head towards the nurses’ station- “then maybe I could get someone downstrait to buy me some. You know, tell them my last dying wish on earth is for a cigarette.” He grinned at me, daring me to say something. (Nicholls 33-34)

In this situation, Sam saw Felix with a face that still looks like a spy. Felix claims to be looking for an opportunity for a mission to go to the store but Felix can not get past the nurses in front of the corridor. At that moment, Felix opened his hand and it was a pack of cigarettes. With his whiny accent, Felix wishes that he wants to buy a new pack of cigarettes before he died. Then, from here Sam already to like Felix.

They met some people in the corridor of the hospital. Then they
the people in there. Firstly, Sam and Felix were difficult to get
m people in the corridor of hospital. However with Felix's br
Felix got cigarettes. With such a childish style, Sam is feelin
ch to help Felix in this mission. As like the quote, *We had gre*
people to buy Felix cigarettes (Nicholls 35). From there it can
t Sam starts to believe and finds his comfort zone with Felix.
ix was a boy who brave to get risks, funny and also encourag
thing which doesn't make sense. As the reaction from the wh
en Sam met Felix in the first time.

Then the researchers found the indication of benefit to one a
n and Felix in the situation above. As Aristotle said that one c

Then the researchers found the indication of benefit to one another in the situation above. As Aristotle said that one of the benefits of friendship which is based on goodness is benefit to one another (Aristotle, 1984). This is portrayed through Sam's efforts and times to help Felix to become a better person. In other way, Sam also got the energy and motivations from Felix and also he can express his happiness from Felix in one time (Aristotle, 1984). It seems so childish. So, from there it was indicated that Felix's role to give more actions to change a quite and imaginary boy.

“Are you going to actually do these ?” he said.
 “I dunno, probably not. Why?” I said.
 “Well, we could. Couldn’t we?” He looked across at me, daring me to argue.
 “They aren’t things to do really,” I explained. “They’re more like ... wishes. No real things.”
 Felix leaned forward. He likes an argument. “So? We could do a world record.” he said.
 “You don’t just do world records.” (Nicholls 21-22).

In that situation, Sam and Felix looked very enjoy with their togetherness. They do the crazy things from Sam's list. In the paragraph above, it indicated that Felix has the role to push Sam harder. Felix thought nothing impossible in his life included this action. As the quotation of;

“He had a lot of ideas,” I said. “And he made up lots of games. *He never thought anything was impossible.*” (Nicholls 139).

In their imagination, they will get to be famous in the world. Sam also looked very enthusiastic to realize it becomes real together with Felix. There are some various things which they will do. One of them is making smallest nightclub in the world. Then they prepared some tools that they need for making nightclub such as; CD player and lighting. They thought that they will use Sam's wardrobe as the place of their nightclub. They have done all of the things perfectly. In there,

I dumped the CD player in the wardrobe and turned it on. *Don't Stop Me Now* started playing. Felix groaned. I laughed.

"No wonder we don't have any customers!"

"Who cares?" said Felix. "Look we've got music. We've got lighting." He turned on the torch and swirled it vaguely into the wardrobe. "Hey – we've even got a moving dance floor." He spotlighted my old skateboard., propped up against the back of the wardrobe. "World record. What more do you want?"

I laughed. Felix always make me laugh. (Nicholls 24)

In their conversation above, Sam and Felix looked very happy. It also indicated that their friendship always colorful with the actions of Felix Stranger. Felix always has many ways to make Sam laugh. Felix also make all of the things that Sam wish becomes special. Sam can express himself without doubt. At least, some little jokes from Felix can remove Sam's bad feelings of many situations. Here, it indicated that the friendship between Sam and Felix has the role to give stimulus for Sam's character.

One characteristic of the friendship which is based on Goodness is the person care to another unconditionally (Aristotle 220). Sam and Felix care to one another without any qualification. This characteristic has been described when Sam feels so worried with Felix's bad condition and had to be rushed to the hospital. At the time Sam was studying with Mrs. Willis as usual. However, Felix did not attend home school at that time in Sam's house. Suddenly, Sam saw his

In that condition, His mother give the things which he want. However her ways are not good toward Sam's condition in that time. Sam's mum only want to make his son happy. Than Sam's father make Sam happy with accompany his son to sleep and tell funny stories to Sam. In addition, he also helps Sam to fulfill Sam's last dream to ride airship. It can be seen on the conversation below;

“Oh.” Dad looked startled. “Didn’t I say?” From an airship, of course.”

“From an airship?” I nearly fell out of bed. “Dad!”

“I couldn’t believe it. Was it some sort joke?” below;

