

**THE EXISTENCE OF WILL TRAYNOR TO DEFINE HIS LIFE IN *ME
BEFORE YOU* NOVEL BY JOJO MOYES**

A THESIS

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements for the Sarjana
Degree of English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic
University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya**



By : Filda Hilmia Adibah

Reg. Number : A73214037

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA

2018

DECLARATION SHEET

The undersigned,

Name : Filda Hilmia Adibah

Reg. Number : A73214037

Certify that the thesis that I wrote to fulfill the requirement for the degree of Sarjana in English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya entitled *The Existence of Will Traynor To Define His Life In Me Before You Novel By Jojo Moyes* is truly my original work. This thesis contains no material previously published or written by other person except where due references is made in the text of the thesis. I am fully aware that I have quoted some statements and ideas from various sources and they are properly acknowledged in my paper. I do not copy or quote with the way that is against from the scientific ethic that occur in the scientific society.

Surabaya, June 24th 2018



Filda Hilmia Adibah

Reg. Number: A73214037

APPROVAL SHEET

This Thesis Entitled

THE EXISTENCE OF WILL TRAYNOR TO DEFINE HIS LIFE IN *ME*

***BEFORE YOU* NOVEL BY JOJO MOYES**

This thesis has been approved by the advisor to be examined

Surabaya, 5th July 2018

Thesis Advisor



Sufi Ikrima S. M. Hum

NUP. 201603318

Head of English Department



Dr. Mohammad Kurjum M. Ag.

NIP.196909251994031002

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA

2018

EXAMINER APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved and accepted by the board of examiners of English
Departement Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan
Ampel Surabaya on July 2018

The Dean of Faculty Arts and Humanities



The Board of Examiners:

Examiner I

Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum.

NUP. 201603318

Examiner II

Abu Fanani, M.Pd.

NIP.196906152007011051

Examiner III

Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum

NIP.197002051999032002

Examiner IV

Abdul Wahab Naf'an, MA

NIP. 198002022015031002



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA
PERPUSTAKAAN

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300
E-Mail: perpus@uinsby.ac.id

LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Sebagai sivitas akademika UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : FILDA HILMIA ADIBAH
NIM : A73214037
Fakultas/Jurusan : ADAB DAN HUMANIDRA / SASTRA INGGRIS
E-mail address : fildaadibah@gmail.com

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif atas karya ilmiah :

Skripsi Tesis Disertasi Lain-lain (.....)
yang berjudul :

"The Existence of Will Traynor To Define His Life In Me Before You Novel By Jojo Moyes"

Beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya berhak menyimpan, mengalih-media/format-kan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikannya, dan menampilkan/mempublikasikannya di Internet atau media lain secara *fulltext* untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan atau penerbit yang bersangkutan.

Saya bersedia untuk menanggung secara pribadi, tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah sayaini.

Demikian pernyataan ini yang saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya,

Penulis, 07 - Agustus - 2018


(Filda Hilmia A.)
Namaterangdantandatangan

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

This research discusses the novel written by Jojo Moyes, entitled *Me Before You*. Novel is one of the fiction prose. According to Bluestone, novel contains a piece of prose fictions which are assumable longest. The novel is imaginary object that include, myth, symbol and convention to satisfy all time and place (23). The novel has been a long story that is written by the author. The author can be free for writing their imaginations, their feelings or their thoughts.

In studying a novel, the readers would know several aspects that build a novel. One of the aspects is intrinsic elements. The intrinsic element is the elements which develops the literary work from inside such as; plot, character and characterization, and the moral value. All of them make story come to alive.

In this thesis, the researcher analyzes the novel focus on the main character. According to Gill, character is the person who playing in the novel. While, the characterization is the creating of a character in a story (16). The study of character requires an analysis of its relations with all of the other character in the work (Aston 35). The individual status of a character is defined through the network of oppositions that it forms with the other characters (Aston 41).

Another way in analyzing literary work is to consider researcher's own perspective. Rather than thinking about the author's intentions, researcher can develop an argument based on any single term (or combination of terms). The researcher will just need to use the original text to defend and explain researcher's

argument to the reader (Anthony 1). The researcher will analyze the main character in the novel using existentialism by close reading to know further.

Existentialism is a term that belongs to intellectual history. According to Sartre in his book *Existentialism Is A Humanism*, existentialism is theory of free will. Everyone is free choosing their way, without thinking right or wrong. Because each individual is unique, the truth is relative and society is unnatural (5).

The novel *Me Before You* is the story about Will Traynor, a successful, wealthy, and active young man. He has perfect life, the life that every man in the worlds wants. He has beloved family, so many cool friends and a beautiful girlfriend. Unfortunately, when he is on the top, he gets a motorcycle accident that injured him very badly. He must spend almost 2 years for the treatment after the accident that makes him become a C5/6 quadriplegic which means a spinal cord injury. He cannot move his upper chest until feet, he cannot walk again no matter how many times he got therapy. Will feels very desperate. The perfect life that Will have before, suddenly disappear and becomes so different. Since the accident he became anti-social. He isolates himself by spending most of his time in his room, watching movie. He does not want to deal with the people. He likes being alone. Because of his disability, Will feels like his life is meaningless. He hates his life. He feels like this condition is not the life that he must be living. That is why he decides to end his life through dignitas, a *swiss-based assisted suicide organization* after six months. His mother is totally desperate to refuse her son's request which is out of mind. She is trying hard to change Will's decision, by hiring Louisa in order to be friend with Will. The relationship between Will and Lou is very rough at first,

but by the time Lou finally be able to get Will's attention. Since then Will starts to change his behaviour, but not his decision to suicide. Will can not bear to live in a wheelchair and there is nothing he could do without the help of someone else. He cannot bear to live with unrequited love to the woman even that woman loves him back, but he cannot touch her, kiss her or having normal sex with her.

In this research the writer decides to analyze the topic with existentialism theory that focuses on how Will's existence define his essence. The researcher's argument about Will's character in the novel because he is interesting, challenging to analyze his existentialism through Jean Paul Sartre's theory about free will. Will's character in this novel is very strong in choosing the way of his own life. The main reason is that he chooses to end his life because that is how he defines himself. No matter people around him trying to change his mind, no matter true love with full of acceptance trying to makes him stronger and keep alive, he still insists with his decisions about his plan to suicide. Someone will never know about how Will Traynor through his life in a wheelchair until he decided to suicide, even he has found someone who loves him deeply. Because they never know how does it feels. Everyone has their own sense experience in life, and it has so various of differences. Everything that Will chooses for his own life is entirely his choice.

Therefore, this research seeks to examine the existentialism from intrinsic element by analyzing the character Will Traynor in the novel *Me Before You* as well as his existentialism.

Traynor. To answer problem of statements above, Will Traynor's life choice and responsibility becomes the most important point to analyze. Therefore, the scope of this study focusses on the part of the novel where Will Traynor's got underchanging character in his life before and after got motorcycle accident. The process of Will Traynor showing his existence by his choice and responsibility to define his essences becomes the scope of this study.

1.6 Method of the Study

This part discusses the methodology of the research. It consists of research design, data and data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

1.6.1 Research Design

This research uses qualitative methods. The researcher uses library research by using some books and other references like articles, journals and wbsites relate to the subject that will be analyzed. This research will be discriptive qualitative methods because it is conducted to describe the elements that become object of the research.

1.6.2 Data and Data Sources

Data is an important part of the research. There are two sources of data, the first data is from the novel itself that is written by Jojo Moyes entitled *Me Before You*, that contained words or sentences that cited in this study. The secondary data are taken from some books, thesis, journals and online resources that relate with the novel and explanation about existentialism theory.

CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

Review of literature consists of some theories that are going to be used as the guidance for analyzing this study and the previous study that related with this research. The main purpose of literature review is to make the argument stronger through some theories. In review of literature, the writer divides in two general discussion. The first is about the theory that relates to this study itself, and the second about the previous study of conducting this research.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Existentialism

Existentialism comes from Latin word *existere* that means stand out or become. In philosophy, the terms *exist* and *existence* denote something active rather than passive. The term existentialism means ‘pertaining to existence’ (Cuddon 251). According to Graham, existentialism is a process of being than state of being condition (238). In existentialists’ thought, man must responsible of process of being. It means that he choose between alternative ways which has different behaviour, he become himself – who he trully is.

Marcel Gabriel (1889-1973) who coined the term “existentialism”, although he was reluctant to be a Christian existentialist (Craig 211). Existentialism is associated with the family of philosophers, Simon de Beauvoir and Jean Paul Sartre, who gathered in Paris at the end of World War II, after the liberation of Paris. The mood is one of enthusiasm, creativity, anguished self-analysis, and

freedom. It is linked with the problems of the day, and invites the subsequent generation to view them as having the currency of yesterdays news. It is as old as philosophy itself, because it addresses the issues that matter most in people's lives. It is also as current as the human condition it examines.

Existentialism is the philosophy that makes an authentically human life possible in a meaningless and absurd world (Panza 28). In other words, existentialism is a philosophical thought that deals with the conditions of existence of the individual person and their emotions, actions, responsibilities, and thoughts.

The freedom makes human being different with other creature. Most of the common existentialists concern in the commitment of freedom humanity and rejection of all determinism forms. According to Warnock, freedom is not abstract thing, but practice. The main purpose is not only studying about freedom characteristic, but feels it and shows to the other people that they are free to choose (109).

The intrinsic elements of existentialism according to Heidegger is freedom. One of human values which aspired poets, politicians, spiritual leaders and philosophers is freedom. Freedom is absolute thing. Humans responsible to build their own experiences and reality, choices and actions, because life is a game without rules. Everybody can do anything with their life and responsible for what they did.

forgetfulness or inauthenticity, where humans tempted with things in the worlds and forget his responsibility in his life.

Beside that, there is also isolation. Isolation comes from loneliness which create theirselves and their world. The deepest loneliness will affect the processing of create someone's life and character, and that process will lead to the top of isolation of humanity.

Isolation has same characteristics as freedom, absolute. Isolation appear because freedom. He create his own experiences and unreplacable. Humans who isolate himself, believes that togetherness is illusive thing. No matter how close someone with someone else, always there are big differences. According to Yalon, existentialism started from loneliness, tears of loosing, and worry for waiting the answer(89).

Heidegger classify isolation in two type: 1. Interpersonal: loneliness that involves isolation from other, because of geography, limit, character or uncapability in social life. 2. Intrapersonal: parts from himself, because of feeling and emotions, lust or desire to be far and untouchable.

The process of human creation in unstructural universe, then stay alone and die, is meaningless thing and absurd. Humans get suffer, they always looking for the meaning of life but can not explains their own existence.

According to Saifullah, characteristics and the doctrine of theory existentialism is varied. Many concepts which are belong to this theory such as anxiety, dread, death, choice, being, essence existence and absurdity are explained

character. Flat character is constructed a single idea or quality, he is unchanging, static and at the end of the novel he is essential what he has been thought. Besides, round character is a character that his profound was altered by his experiences.

Another types of character are dynamic and static character. Dynamic character are the ones that change over the course of the story, while static characters remain the same characters.

Based on their appearance, the character can be divided into protagonist and antagonist. Protagonist is the characters that was assumed to be a hero and usually is admired by the readers and antagonist is the character that his or her appearance opponent to the protagonist, directly or indirectly. This character assumes as the bad person in the readers opinion and causes conflict and become the rival for protagonist.

B. Characterization

Characterization is the representation of persons (or other beings or creatures) in dramatic and narrative works of art. Aristotle promototed the primacy of plot over characters, such as a plot driven-narrative, arguing in his poetics that tragedy is a representation, not of humans, but of action and life.

All stories must have certain characteristics or elements. Without these elements, any piece of literature would ease to make sense or serve a purpose. For example, stories must have a plot, or events that take place. Another essential story element is the character. Character can be defined as any person, animal, or figure represented in a literary work. There are two types of characterization that

The second is undergraduated thesis from UIN Sunan Kalijaga Jogja that written by Hassan (2014), entitled *An Existentialism Analysis, The Joker's Resistance Found In The Solitaire Mystery Novel By Jostein Gaarder*. The *Solitaire Mystery* is a novel that shows Joker revenges to Frode with his resistance. It happens because Joker wants to regain his existence and freedom. There is an interesting thing to be discussed. It is about existentialism. On Joker's resistance, he shows his existentialism through his activity. The result of Joker's resistance is Frode's death. It means Joker kills his creator with his statements that shows his existentialism. Here, the writer analyzes two major problems in the Joker's resistance. They are the reason and the process of Joker's resistance. The reason of Joker's resistance happens because Joker realizes his existentialism. It means with his existentialism Joker tries to reveal a truth that concerning about his derivation and his creator. Finally, Joker finds Frode is his creator. The process of Joker's resistance happens in the Joker's banquet where all the dwarfs and Frode gather to celebrate Joker Day. There, Joker proclaims his existentialism in front of all the dwarfs. Finally, Joker successes to affect all the dwarfs to kill Frode. The approach used on this research is Sartre's existentialism theory. The writer analyzes the Joker's existentialism based on Sartre's perspective. It concerning with atheist existentialists' theory that show they do not believe in God existence and they consider that human just only to exist in this world without God's concept. The result of this study shows that Joker gets his existentialism through any processes namely: Joker's observation, Joker's questions, and Joker's denial to his creator. Joker depends on his own ability and

believes it as the basic of his existentialism. Finally, Joker gets out from dream world. It means Frode's imagination, and appears to the real world. It means, Joker crosses the space and time, from the card in the magic island becomes the real dwarf who meets Hans Thomas in this world. It means the real world.

This thesis using Sartre's existentialism theory about unbelieve in God, as researcher's thesis, researcher also using sartre's existentialism theory, but did not involve something that has relation about unbelieving in God.

The third is the journal written by Scarano and Krause, entitled Reality and Existentialism in House of Leaves. House of Leaves, by Mark Z. Danielewski, is a novel first published in 2000 that has since developed notoriety in literary circles for its arguably unique experimentation with a multi-layered plot, varied visual typography, and multi-media format. Despite being widely read and influential over the past decade, little scholarly analysis has been done on House of Leaves. As House of Leaves could represent an entire new genre of literature, it is important that we understand its themes and the ways in which various writerly techniques function within the novel.

In this journal, Scarano and Krause analyze House of Leaves through an existential lens, specifically utilizing the ideas of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus to examine the psyche of one of the novel's main characters, Johnny Truant. In addition to primary sources by Danielewski, Sartre and Camus, they employ a 2002 analysis of House of Leaves by Katherine N. Hayles to aid their research. Scarano and Krause conclude that Johnny's story, and House of Leaves

as a whole, breaks down traditional notions of reality, but retains existential hope for individuals who are able to find a purpose in life, even if that “purpose” is necessarily subjective.

Scarano and Krause’s analysis presents an original take on *House of Leaves*, and contains wider implications for future novels that emulate its experimental style. Past analyses have focused on post-modern aspects of *House of Leaves*, but they analyze it through an existential lens. Beyond adding to the body of work on *House of Leaves*, their existential take on an otherwise post-modern text may prove influential to analyses of other “post-modern” novels in the future.

The difference between this journal and researcher’s thesis is the focus. This journal focus on psychological aspect of the character, but researcher’s analysis is does not involve anything about psychological condition, but focus on how someone’s existences define his life through his choices and responsibility, freedom, and human nature that does not fix.

The fourth is a journal that written by Esmaeel Najjar Daronkolaee and Mehdi Bakhtiari Hojjat, entitled *A Survey of Man’s Alienation in Modern World: Existential Reading of Sam Shepard Buried Child and True West*. This journal aims at recalling different modes of alienation in modern world and looks closely at modern alienations of characters in Sam Shepard’s *Buried Child* and *True West*. The researchers try to analyze the mentioned works by applying Sartre's ethical alienation and Heidegger's ontological alienation on these works. It is tried to make it precise that in Sartre's philosophy alienation occurs when human beings

refuse to accept 'responsibility' for their own freedom. In addition, Heidegger's notion of 'authenticity' is discussed as contradiction to this Sartrean alienation and fallen understanding.

This journal has same topic to be analyze, existentialism in human life in Sartre's lens. But this journal analyze about being refuse the responsibility. It is quiet different with researcher's analysis, researcher analyze about choices and responsibility that in human's struggle for his existence.

So far, the researcher still does not found literature analysis using the novel *Me Before You* written by Jojo Moyes.

CHAPTER III

The Existences of Will Traynor That Defines His Essence

In this chapter, the study presents an analysis of Will Traynor as the main character in *Me Before You* novel by using new criticism and existentialism theory. The researcher divides the discussion into two parts. The first part discusses about Will's existence in his life based on some points that have been explained in the second chapter and then the second part discusses how Will Traynor defines his life seen from Sartre's existentialism. The discussions are taken from both the direct and the indirect conversations.

1. The Way Will Shows His Existence in His Life

In this point the researcher analyzes Will's struggle to show his existence through Sartre's existentialism in the concepts of freedom of choice and responsibility.

A. Through Will's Freedom of Choice

Me Before You is a novel describes an effort of Will to refuse determination in his life through his choices. Life is made up of choices. Human has various destiny points that we must live through in this lifetime, which have been designed for us in lauhul mahfud. But with these destiny points firmly implanted in our soul makeup, we also have 'free will' and can choose how we will live through the situation at hand.

made is showing that he still has brave soul. Not all people are able to chooses this choice, most of people living either in the life they does not want and waiting their death for the rest of their life. But, Will decides to ends the life that is so far from what he had chosen. For Will, living as a quadriplegic is not just a matter of sitting in a chair, it is a constant battle against pain and infection, as well as the mental challenges.

The changing cycle of Will's characterizations can be shown that Will deep inside himself has strong and brave character to lead his own life that started before he got motorcycle accident. When he turns to be quadriplegic, he rejects all determination to accept what is and what was. He still wants to control his own life and can not accept the life he does not want to live. That is why with his bravery character, he decides to end up his unwanted life. And he accepts all the responsibility from his choice, strongly. From Will's choices, it defines his essence. That is runaway from unwanted life throughout death in the way he wants and get his freedom.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The final chapter of the research is the conclusion from the analysis of Will Traynor's existentialism that defines his essence. The first is about Will's existentialism that is shown by his choices and responsibility. Will's choices are isolation and suicide. Will chooses to isolate himself from people, including Lou, his best friend Ruppert, and his ex-girlfriend Alicia. Will isolates himself because he does not want to be seen as a pathetic person and makes people feel sorry for him. He wants to be seen equal as a normal person. The responsibility of his choice is Alicia and Ruppert are getting closer and let them get married. And then Will also chooses to put an end to his life because he is unable to bear living in the life he does not want. The responsibility of his choice is that he must sacrifice his love to Lou. Will's life becomes better since Lou came. But, Will realizes that if he stays alive, Lou will always be bound with him, with his medical appointments, and all about him. Will realizes that he will be an obstacle for Lou to reach her dreams. On the other side, Will always wants Lou to live in a better life, and it will not come true if he is still alive and always puts all of his things on her. Will sacrifices his feelings. He does not want one day Lou will regret if she stays with a quadriplegic.

The second is about how the existence of Will defines his essence. The second part is explained through Will's characterization. Will Traynor has a dynamic or development character. Will undergoes a change of characterization before and after he got a motorcycle accident that caused him to be paralyzed almost ninety percent of his body.

Before the accident, Will portrays as an adventurous, attractive, and ambitious man. But, after he got motorcycle accident that turns him into quadriplegic, he becomes an unhappy soul, bad attitude man, desperate and uncared for himself and his social life. Until then, he knows Louisa, he started to change. He becomes cheer up than before, started to open up himself and care with others. Will also encouraged Louisa to do something different in her life. Will always inspires and motivates Lou to move out from her comfort zone. In the changing cycle of Will's characterizations, it defines that Will deep inside himself has strong and brave character to lead his own life that started before he got motorcycle accident. When he turns to be quadriplegic, he rejected all determination to accept what is and what was. He still wants to control his own life and can not accept the life he does not want to live. That is why with his brave character, he decides to end up his unwanted life. And he accepts all the responsibility from his choice, strongly. His essence is to be dead in the way his existences lead him into.

- Neitzsche, Frederich. "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense". Translated and edited by Daniel Breazeale in *Philosophy and Truth: Selections from Nietzsche's Notebooks of the Early 1870s*. Atlantic Highlands, N.J: Humanities Press, 1979. PDF.
- Panza, C. *Existentialism for Dummies*. Indiana: Wiley Publishing, 2008. PDF.
- Pinker, Steven. In Our Time: *Human Nature*. BBC Radio 4 Discussion, 2002. PDF.
- Saifullah, Hasan. *Berkenalan dengan Eksistensialisme*. Jakarta: Pustaka Pustaka Jaya, 1974. PDF.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Existentialism Is A Humanism*. Trans. By Philip Mairet. Public Lecture, 1946. Print.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Man is Nothing But That Which He Makes Of Himself*. University of Pavia Galleries, 1948. Print.
- Scarano, Matthew Scott & Krause, Jennifer Ann. *Reality and Existentialism In House of Leaves*. Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Journal, 2011. PDF.
- Yusuf, Kamal. *Teori Sastra*. Surabaya: English Art and Humanities of Islamic University of Sunan Ampel, 2009. PDF.