# PAT'S STRUGGLE TO REACH A HAPPY ENDING PORTRAYED IN *THE SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK* BY MATTHEW QUICK

THESIS



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# PAT'S STRUGGLE TO REACH A HAPPY ENDING PORTRAYED IN THE SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK BY MATTHEW QUICK

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#### ABSTRACT

Munafidsyah Sofy Fawzia (2019). Pat's Struggle to Reach a Happy Ending Portrayed in The Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick. English Department, UIN SunanAmpel Surabaya. Advisor: Sufi IkrimaSa'adah, M.Hum.

**Keywords:** happy ending, struggle, new criticism

This research discussed Pat Solitiano's struggle to recognize his belief in a happy ending of his life, which is depicted in the novel *The Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick. It is important to know how Pat struggled to reach his hope.

This research used a qualitative descriptive method to provide a full explanation and description. New Criticism is used as a big umbrella theory to analyze the problems that the researcher discussed. The theory helped the researcher to describe the character and his struggle

The results of this study showed that Pat Solitiano is a person who has a merciful, optimistic, and bad-tempered characteristic. He loved Nikki very much, and was optimistic that he would get Nikki back. His belief that his wife would return to him made Pat struggle for it. They were improving his physical and emotional health, becoming an enthusiastic book reader, and trying to be able to communicate with Nikki again. All Pat's struggles ended when he realized that Nikki was not back to him and Pat could not a happy ending.



#### ABSTRAK

MunafidsyahSofyFawzia (2019). Pat's Struggle to Reach a Happy Ending in The Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick. English Department, UIN SunanAmpel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Sufi IkrimaSa'adah, M.Hum.

Kata Kunci: akhir yang bahagia, perjuangan, kritik baru

Penelitian ini membahas perjuangan Pat Solitiano untuk mewujudkan keyakinannya tentang akhir yang bahagia dalam hidupnya, yang digambarkan dalam novel *The Silver Linings Playbook* oleh Matthew Quick.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk memberikan penjelasan dan deskripsi lengkap. Kritik Baru digunakan sebagai teori besar untuk menganalisis masalah yang dibahas peneliti.

Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah Pat Solitiano adalah karakter yang penyayang, optimis, dan pemarah. Dia sangat mencintai Nikki, Pat optimis bahwa dia akan mendapatkan Nikki kembali, tetapi dia sering tidak dapat menahan emosinya dan menjadi marah. Karena dia percaya bahwa istrinya akan kembali kepadanya, Pat membuat banyak perjuangan, diantaranya; meningkatkan kesehatan fisik dan emosionalnya, menjadi pembaca buku yang antusias, dan mencoba untuk dapat berkomunikasi dengan Nikki lagi. Perjuangan semua Pat harus berakhir karena, pada akhirnya, dia tahu bahwa Nikki tidak akan kembali kepadanya dan Pat tidak dapat mewujudkan akhir yang bahagia yang dia yakini sejauh ini.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

Cover Page
Inside Cover Page i
Approval Sheetii
Examiner Sheet
Declarationv
Acknowledgementvi
Abstract vii
Abstrak viii
Table of Contentix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background of Study1
1.2 Objective of the Study4
1.3 Significance of the Study
1.4 Scope and Limitation
1.5 Research Method
CHAPTER II THEREOTICAL FRAMEWORK
2.1 New Criticism
2.1.1 Character
2.1.2 Characterization10
2.1.3 Plot
2.14 Conflict
2.2.5 Concept of Struggle
2.3 Previous of Study

CHAPTER III PAT'S STRUGGLE TO REACH HAPPY ENDING	21
3.1 Pat's Characterization	21
3.1.1 Pat was Merciful Person	21
3.1.2 Pat was Optimistic Person	25
3.1.3 Pat was Bad Tempered Person	
3.2 Pat's Struggle to Reach a Happy Ending	
3.2.1 Pat's Struggle to be Physically Better	
3.2.2 Pat's Struggle to be Emotionally Better	
3.2.3 Pat's Struggle to be an Enthusiastic Book Reader	41
3.2.4 Pat's Struggle to Communicate with Nikki	45
3.2.5 Pat's Struggle was End	49
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION	
REFERENCE	
CURRICULUM VITAE	59

# CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Every human in the world would want a happy life. Such as; physically and mentally healthy, married and have children, have a good education and get achievements, have a good job and get a promotion, and so on. However, in reality, life will not be as they want. Every human being must have a problem in his life, such as a problem in their job, family, love, education, and so on. Even though they have planned their lives well, failures and problems will still occur under predictable and unpredictable conditions. Problems that exist in life usually come and make someone unprepared with the things that happen. Because usually, the human only thought about happily in their life. Therefore, when the problem occurs, people usually do anything so that the problem can be solved. This action is usually called as struggle. According toMcKechnie (1989, p.367), struggle is the act of achieving something. People will keep their struggling to achieve their dreams even if they are in a bad situation.

There are many things happen in life, planned or unexpected, good or bad that occur in our life, the example are: meeting someone, getting married, giving birth to a baby, achievement in education, being good at work or even, a separation, remorse, death, ungraduated from college, being fired from work, being sick, and so on. Everyone has different reactions to face the problems in their life. According to Braun, Linder, Asimov (480) Since humans are beings who have an intelligence, they will do anything to overcome and deal with their problems. They will struggle and look for ideas to solve their problems

Literary works can reflect human life experience. Hudson (1958, p.10) said, literature is an expression of life that describe about life, experience, people, thoughts, and feelings. Meanwhile Taylor (1981, p.81) argues that literature, like other works of art, is based on the author's imaginative actions in choosing, order, and interpret life experiences. The researcher state from the quote above that literature cannot be separated from life because it is related to experience and imagination in life. Easily to say that literary works contain human experience developed by the author's imagination.

In his explanation, DiYanni (2000, p.7) said that literary works are divided into several types, they are: poetry, drama, and fiction. He added that fiction is also divided into several types, they are: novels, novelettes, and short story. In this research, the researcher only focuses on novel. Taylor (1981, p.46) said, novel is a long and complex literary work. In the novel, the story reflects an experience and value of human's life. To sum up, novel is a long literary work that has detailed explanations in characters and stories to convey human values by the author to the reader.

In this study, the researcher is interested in a novel written by Matthew Quick, namely *The Silver Linings Playbook(TSLP)* (2008). Beside that, in 2012,

this novel was made into movie and is directed by David O Rusell. The reason the researcher chooses this novel is because this novel tells the struggle to get happiness in the character's love life. And this is very compatible with the background explained above.

In this novel, Matthew Quick uses the first-point of view in his writing. Pat Solitiano is the main character and narrator in the novel. At the beginning of the story, Pat is described as coming out of a place of psychiatric rehabilitation.Pat felt he had only been there for a few months, but actually he stayed on the psychiatric rehabilitation for four years. After leaving the place, Pat found that Nikki, his wife was not at home. He tried to fix everything and thinkthat Nikki returned to him. Pat made a lot of effort to get Nikki back. One of them was sending a letter through Tiffany, a widow who was depressed due to her husband's death. Tiffany also asked Pat to become her partner in the dance competition. Because Pat really want to go back with Nikki and the only way is through Tiffany, Pat agreed to accompany Tiffany as his partner. This novel describes how Pat fixed his relationship with Nikki so that his love story ended happily, but there were also many obstacles that Pat encountered. One of them was the falsity of the letter Pat had received. All the letters were written by Tiffany, not Nikki.

From the explanation of the novel above, the researcher focused on the main character, Pat. The problems that discussed in this study are Pat's characterization and Pat's struggle to realize his happy ending in his life.

The researcher also believes that the issues in this study are related to the Surah At-Taubah verse 129: *If they turn away, say, "God is enough for me; there is no god except He; in Him I have put my trust; He is the Lord of the Sublime Throne.*" The verse means, that after we struggle in our life, it is best to receive and believe in God's destiny, because God's provision is the best one.

#### **1.2 Objective of Study**

From the explanation on the background of study, this study has the following objectives:

- a. To explain Pat's characterization in *The Silver Linings Playbook* novel.
- b. To describe Pat's struggle to realize happy ending in his life portrayed in the *The Silver Linings Playbook* novel.

#### **1.3 Significance of Study**

Theoretically, this research aims to contribute to the development of literary studies relating to the study of the theory of new criticism. This can provide knowledge about character, characterization, plot, and conflict that happened in the main character's life in *The Silver Linings Playbook* novel based on the text itself.

Practically, the researcher hopes to provide knowledge that the someone's character could related with his struggle to realize something that someone hopes.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

To avoid an overlapping explanation in this study, the researcher concerns on Pat's character and Pat's struggle to realize happy ending in his life. With the limitation of the problem above, the researcher applies new criticism as a big umbrella theory..

#### 1.5 Method of Study

This sub chapter discusses how the research conducted. It consist of four main sub chapters, they are research design, data and data source, data collection, and data analysis.

#### **1.5.1 Research Design**

To answer the problems, the researcher used qualitative method and the way that used library based. According Laurance Neuman (2000, p.972) qualitative research or library research is the method which uses data from a text, written words and phrases, and not concerned with complicated numbers. The researcher used qualitative method to analyzed the data from *The Silver Linings Playbook* novel to make easier to describe, explain, and interpreted.

#### 1.5.2 Data Source

The main data were taking from the novel itself. The writer focused on main character in this novel, namely Pat Solitiano. The data were took only from the quotes were related to the problems of the study. The supporting data were taken from journals, handbook and others that related to the analysis.

#### 1.6.3 Data Collection

Data are very important to analyze the answer of the research problems. In this part, the writer gave the step of collecting the data as follow:

- a. Reading *TSLP* novel written by Matthew Quick as the main data.
- b. Highlighting the sentences and dialogues that related with Pat's character.
- c. Classifying the Pat's character.
- d. Highlighting the sentences and dialogues that related with Pat's struggle to realize a happy ending in his life.
- e. Classifying the Pat's struggle to realize a happy ending in his life.

#### 1.6.4 Data Analysis

After collected the data, the researcher analyzed based on the statement of the problems as the following steps:

- a. Analyze the data related to the description of Pat's characterization in the novel. The analysis of this part is supported with character and characterization in New Criticism theory.
- b. Analyze the data related to the description of Pat's struggle to realize happy ending in his life in the novel. The analysis of this part is supported with conflict, characterization, plot in New Criticism theory.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### 2 Theoretical Framework

To analyze TLSP novel, the researcher used some theories that discusses in this chapter. This analysis concern only in the text, so the suitable theory to analyze it is New Criticism. The researcher focuses only the main character, namely Pat Solitiano, so, the researcher uses character, characterization and supported with concept of struggle to analyze the Pat's struggle. To make it more specific, the researcher also uses Phenomenology theory to analyze Pat's perspective about life that happened to him and realities that Pat faced.

#### 2.1 New Criticism

Gillespie states that New Criticism is one method to analyze the literary text(2010, p.172). New Criticisms helped the readers to critics a literary text. In the *Critical Theory Today* written by Tyson, New Criticism was introduced to America and called "close reading." It can be understood that New Criticism focused about the readers who only use the text as the one and only evidence of

their interpretation. Tyson also said that new criticism is about "the text itself" (2006, p.136).

New criticism is a theory in the literature that analyzes the text and ignores the biography of the author, historical context, psychological issues, political effect, and others, which are not explained in the text of literary work. (Gillespie 2010 p.172). On the other hand, new criticism is the theory that believes in single best, or more accurate, of the interpretation which can be discovered to represent the text itself, or easily, new criticism believes with best explain its organic unity (Tyson 2006, p.148). In this case, new criticism pays attention to the formal elements of the text and the meaning in the text. The formal element here is the structure of the text, which covers; character, characterization, plot, setting, point of view, symbols, and images (Tyson 2006, p.137).

So, the researcher concludes that New Criticism is a theory that only focuses on the text. This theory does not need the historical background, society issues, political issues and others. Meanwhile, the elements of new criticism are; character, characterization, plot, and all of them discuss in the novel. The researcher used New Criticism theory because this study only focused on the novel itself.

#### 2.1.1 Character

Character is one of intrinsic element in the story. Character is a human being imagined as something that lives in the story (Kennedy and Gioia2007, p.73). So, characters are important things that builds a story. Abrams also states that characters are people who are represented in narratives or dramatic works, which are interpreted by the reader with intellectual, moral particular, and emotional by appraisal from the dialogue and action (1999, p.32).

In *An Introduction to Fiction* by Staton, characters have two meanings. First, a character is an individual who shows in the story. Second, a character is described as "the mixture of interests, emotions, desires and moral principles that makes up each of these individuals" (1965, p.17). In a simple way, a character can be defined as any individual who shows in a story that brings a mixture of interests, emotions, desires, and moral principles as their personality.

Based on Kennedy and Gioia, that characters have two types. There are flat and round. Flat characters usually stay the same throughout a story, but round characters often change—become enlightened or learned, better or worst. In other words, flat characters stay consistent throughout the story, whereas round characters show the development in the beginning, middle story, and end of the story. The alternate terms of them are; flat is static and round is dynamic. (2007, p.74)

Henkle (1977, p.88-97) said that the characters are divided into two, namely the main character and secondary character. The main character is the center of the story. It most complex and important character in the story. This main character can be identified by its complexity and how the reader pays more attention to this character in the story. In the main character, readers often have more hopes and desires in the course of the story On the other hand, secondary characters perform more limited functions. It can also be said; secondary characters are supported about how the problems and conditions of the main characters in the course of the story. In other words, secondary characters build the context of time and society. These characters only appear in certain scenes. They are not portrayed intensely in the story, so they are less attractive to readers.

So, the researcher concludes that the character is a human who lives in a story. The character is an important part of the story because the character is the human who builds the story itself. The character is divided into several types. There are round and flat, and then there are major and secondary. Therefore, the researcher used the character as one of theory that to analyze this study because, this study focused on the character, especially main character in the novel itself.

#### 2.1.2 Characterization

Characterization is imagery of character. The primary attribute of a good novelist, dramatist, or short story is when the reader can get the limits of the function and characterize the people successfully Holman (1992, p.75). When the readers read the story, they can understand the character's personality, the behavior of the character, the way of character solves the problem, or faces the problem. It automatically makes the reader had known the characterization of the character.

Characterization is divided into two types; firstly is direct characterization. Direct characterization means the narrator or author directly says or thinks about the character. The reader is told what the character is like. Secondly is indirect characterization that refers to what character does and what character speaks. The reader then infers the character and is obligated to figure out what the character is like. Bernardo (2012, p.2).

Another explanation from Holman, there are three ways of characterizing character in the story. Firstly, explicitly by the author through being presented the character directly, described by action. Secondly, in the presentation of characters from action illustrations. The reader will be able to deduce the actor's attributes from the action. Thirdly, representation of the character itself, without the author's comment, the reader will understand the character's attributes.(1992, p.76)

With regard to methods for portrayal, Murphy in Understanding Unseens (161-173) makes reference to nine elements for character depiction in the story. They are personal descriptions, sayings, characters as seen by others, reactions, conversations of others, past lives, direct comments, thoughts, and behavior. Each component will be mentioned as follows:

a. Personal Description

Here, an author portrays a person in a story through his appearance, manner of dress, physical condition, and others related to his personality.

b. Characters as Seen by Others

As should be described directly, the author can describe it through the eyes and opinions of others. Readers can get a explanation or depiction of the person through the assessment of others.

#### c. Speech

The author gives individual descriptions through what he said. Every time the character talks, when the character talks to someone else, every time he or she expresses an opinion. The author gives the reader an information through what is said by the character. Or it can be said, the reader can judge a character by how the character speaks.

d. Past Life

The author provides information to the reader about how the character through the lives of the characters in the past. Readers will most likely see pieces of information by focusing on direct comments by the author, through individual reflections, through discussions or through other people's ways.

e. Conversation with Others

The writer provides information to the reader about a person's character through conversations with other people and the things they say about him. What people say about someone in the character will give the reader understanding of the character.

f. Reaction

Depictions of characters can be raised by the character's reaction to an event or an event in the story. The can understand how these characters with the reaction described by the author in the story itself.

g. Direct Comments

Direct characterization is explained to the reader directly from the narrator about character's characterization, the reader is told what the characters in the story are like.

#### h. Thought

The writer gives the reader information about what the writer thinks about someone inside. In other words, the reader can understand the character only by knowing what the author thought.

#### i. Mannerism

The author portrayed a person's mannerisms, habits, or idiosyncrasies. Moreover, by understanding how the person behaves and acts in the story, the reader will be able to understand the person's character.

Barnet, Burto, and Chain (229) also explain other ways of characterizing. They divide into four points that can be used to determine a person's character in the story. The first is from what the characters (people) say. This means that sentences expressed in opinions and conversations by characters in the story are instructions for the reader to know their characteristics. However, some readers assume that what he said need not be considered as a nominal value; the character may be self-deceiving, hypocritical, or biased. The second way is from character deeds. Here, the reader can see characteristics through character actions, including body language and character movements. The third is from how the characters relate to other characters. This also includes the words, comments, and opinions of other characters about him. The last is from what other characters do. This can be illustrated by the actions of other characters towards someone in the story, it can be like liking or disliking.

#### 2.1.3 Plot

Gill stated, the definition of a plot is the sequence of events in a story (165). Plot has a different meaning with a story. If the story is an event while the plot is a part of the event, so that the reader more easily follows what is happening in the story. In the story there is also interaction between characters supported by the plot. In addition, plot help the reader to believe and understand the contents of the story itself. (165)

So it is easily understood that plot is about how the story goes. In the plot, the writer gave different information in each parts of story. Because, each part may have an appropriate portion to make each part connected well. The first part will start with an exposition that provides background information on the story including the setting and character. Then, the story will proceed to an upward action that has development information. The rising action will then bring the story to the climax and will pass the next step called as falling action until it ends at the final resolution of the story. This plot theory was developed by Gustav Freytag and referred to as the Freytag Pyramid as described in Kelley Griffith (30).

Gill also said that there are many kinds of plots which can affect the relation between the story and other elements of the text such as plots and the character's goal, plots and past events, plots based on society, plots based on discoveries, plots based on mysteries, and plots based on problem (173-180).

The researcher concluded, that the plot is another important element to build a story. With the plot, the reader can more clearly understand how characters can live in a story. The plot must contain enough information so that each part can connected well.

#### 2.1.4 Conflict

Conflict is the strain situation between characters or actual opposition of the characters (Cuddon 175). Holman said, conflict is the struggle that arises of the interaction of two opposing forces in a plot (98). The conflict gave the elements of interest and suspense in any form of fiction. Usually, at least one of the opposing forces is a person.

The conflict in a literary work is reflected by external and internal action. External actions suggest the internal action. External action is walking and talking to the elevator. While private action was the thought moving along and then suddenly upward with the idea of what to write in response to the assignment. The conflict here takes place within the speaker's mind (Stanford 30). This theory can use to analyze the language used in literary work. The language is used by the people that have a conflict. So, this theory uses to analyze conflicts faced by the main character of the novel.

Conflict is something that cannot be separated from human life. It can appear when people communicated with other people in society. Conflict theory is very famous because conflict is the social problem that commonly happens in everywhere and every time. Conflict itself is huge. Many experts define the conflict. However, the conflict also leads to a new social or political organization and therefore be productive if the parties involved can deal with their incompatibilities so that such a new organizational form is achieved (2). Conflict is something that usually related to negative thinking. Most people prefer to avoid than face it because they need to make socialization with others. We do not know when it comes and always include negative meaning and uninteresting.

Holman and Harmon state that conflict is the struggle that grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in the plot (1986: 107). Holman and Harmon (1986) state that conflicts will happen in different situations and conditions such as:

a. A struggle against nature, the character's struggle when they deal with the natural

forces such as hurricane, flood, storm, earthquake, tornado, landslide and another disasters that are caused by nature.

b. A struggle against another person, it presents the character's struggle when they deal with another character.

c. A struggle against society, the character's struggle when they deal with a society's value systems.

d. A struggle against fate of destiny, the character's struggle when they deal with their creator, God. It shows that the character try to change their own destiny.

#### 2.1.4.1 Types of Conflict

From the explanation above, conflict can define as a struggle opposing forces. Conflict is an essential element of the novels. Without conflict in a novel, there is no sense; there are two kinds of conflicts: external and internal conflict. Further explanation will explain as follows.

#### A. External Conflict

The external conflict also defines as a conflict that happens in one character with something outside himself. It can be the environment or nature. This kind of conflict occurs when characters are involved in the world's woes. Therefore, external conflict can be separated into physical and social conflict (Nurgiyantoro 124). First is physical conflict. Physical conflict is the leading character struggles with the physical strength of other man, forces of nature, or animal. Physical conflict can be separated into man vs. man and men vs. nature. Man versus man is the most fundamental type of external conflict. This form of external conflict occurs when a character struggles against another character.

#### **B.** Internal Conflict

Internal conflict is the conflict that happened in character between the character and herself. Internal conflict also called psychological conflict without influenced by the other person (124). According to Brooks, internal conflict is a conflict that a person struggles against some elements which are in their personality, such as with his soul, ideas of right or wrong, physical limitations, choices, and others. (57).

#### 2.1.5 Concept of Struggle

Every human being have a problem in their life. And everyone have different problems. When someone has a problem, they must struggle to face and fix the problem. According to Abate, struggle is "carrying out violent efforts or determined under adversity." (1996, p.1514). Therefore, everyone has to struggle to face the problem or immersed in a problem that never solved.

The struggle can also be understood as a strategy to protect someone from problems in his life. Bernard said, "Individuals can also consciously and rationally implement strategies that enable them to overcome the pressures and problems of life." When people have a problem, they will try to find strategies and ideas to solve their problems. Although sometimes it must be in bad condition, someone will find a way to overcome their problems with a struggle.

According to McKechnie (1989, p.367), the struggle is an activity that requires much effort to reach a goal point of every human being. Someone struggles because they have a goal that motivates them. They have dreams to achieve. Therefore, they will continue to strive to achieve their dreams. When people fail to achieve their goals, they will learn from previous experiences, and they can learn positive things from their struggle. And finally, begin their struggle again. Everyone believes that every struggle will produce the best results in their life.

#### 2.2 Review of Related Studies

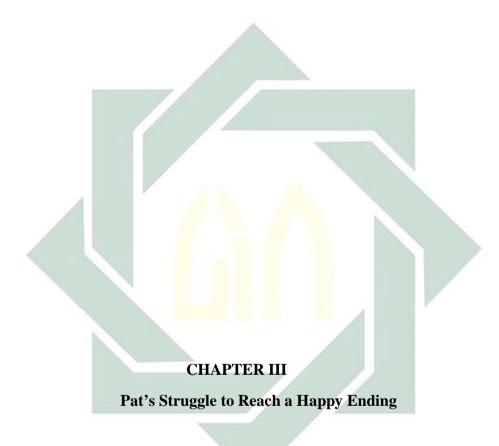
To enlarge the knowledge about this study, the researcher reviewed the previous studies which related with this study in some aspects. The first and second thesis are from the English Department at State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The third and the last are thesis is from the English Department in Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta. The writer chose them because they used the same theory and the same subject with this study. All of them used New Criticism, and struggle concept as theory, and the last one used *The Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick as the subject of the thesis.

The first previous study is from Andzi Setya Pambudi with the tittle *Romance Popular Formula Reflected In The Main Characters of Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians*. This study discusses how the main character conflicts in his romantic relationship. Pambudi uses descriptive qualitative methods to present the results of his analysis. Pambudi used the popular literary formula approach from John G. Cawelti and New Criticism as supporting theories. Pambudi find the main character conflict that reveals the secret of Kerry. The main character can also reveal a story that happened in the past.

Secondly, thesis with the title *The Struggle of Five Characters to Achieve The Target in Paulo Coelho's "The Winner Stand Alone" Novel: New Criticism Study* written by Lailatul Hidayah. Lailatul used qualitative method to analyze the data, she also used new criticism as the theory to answer the question of problems. She analyzed the struggle of each character in the novel, it means she used new criticism as a main theory. The different with this research is, the researcher only analyze the main male character, Pat. And then, in this research, the researcher only use character and characterization. While Lailatul used all new criticism element to analyzed her research.

Thirdly, researcher uses the thesis from Theresia Rita Fibrianingsih with the tittle *Clare's Struggle for a Better Life as Seen Constance Briscoe's* Ugly(2010). The researcher uses this thesis as a review of related studies because it has the same theory, namely new criticism and the issue of struggle in life. In Fibrianingsih's thesis, she managed to explain how the main character's struggle in her childhood. This thesis uses a qualitative method because it contains explanations and depictions of the character. The difference between Fibrianingsih's thesis and this research is, in this research, the main character is male; besides that, the issue of struggle discussed in this study is the struggle in love.

The last one is the thesis from Hari Cynthia Yudanti with the title *The Influence Of Tiffany's Character on Pat Solitano In Facing His Conflict As Seen in Matthew Quick's The Silver Linings Playbook*(2015). The researcher use this thesis as one of the previous studies because it has similarity in the novel as the main data in the study. In addition, in his thesis, Yudanti also uses New Criticism to analyze characters. The results of this thesis show the characterization of Pat as an unstable and stubborn person who is easily motivated, while Tiffany as a strong person, and stubborn in helping Pat. In addition, the results of Yudanti's thesis also showed Tiffany's role in Pat to starting in his new life. The striking difference with this study is, in this study researchers only focus on Pat as a main character. This study is very focused on Pat's thought about getting his ex-wife back, which made him did a struggle and it has broke with a realities in the end of story.



In this chapter the researcher described the characterizations of the main character; Pat Solitiano. Pat's characters are: merciful, optimistic, and bad tempered. After knowing Pat's characterization, the researcher described Pat's struggled in a problem when he has separated with Nikki. In separation time, Pat did a lot of struggles including: improved his physical and mentality health, to be an enthusiastic book reader, and could communicate with Nikki. All the thing he did because he would get Nikki back. But in the end, Pat had to stop because it turned out Nikki had divorced him and already had a new family.

#### 3.1 Pat's Characters

To easily in understanding, researcher classified Pat's character into three parts. The researcher argued that Pat is someone who is merciful, Pat is also someone who is optimistic, and the last is Pat is also someone who bad tempered. The following are the quotation that will support the statement of the researcher:

#### 3.1.1 Merciful

In this novel, it was told that Pat is Nikki's husband. They had separated which Pat called as Apart time. During his separation time, Pat was very love Nikki. Not only with Nikki, some quotes also described that he is a loving person to another. And researcher argued merciful is one of Pat's character. Here is proof that Pat is a merciful.

"Nikki? She's great," I say, and then smile, feeling the warmth that fills my chest whenever I say her name, whenever I see her face in my mind. "She's the best thing that ever happened to me. (16) The quote is the beginning of how Pat thinks about Nikki and the events of apart time he experienced. In Pat's statement, it can be said easily that Pat would like to end separation time with Nikki. The author did not explain in before what apart time was, but after that, in Pat's next explanation, he explained how apart time he experienced it. Of course, that was all how Pat thought about apart time that he did. The reason that Pat would like end the separation time because he loves Nikki so much, with his statement, researcher argued that Pat was merciful person.

I love her more than life itself. And I just can't wait until apart time is over.() The statement was said by Pat when he was consulting with Dr. Patel as his new therapist. Pat's statement was enough to explain how much he loved Nikki. In fact, he loved Nikki more than his own life. From this, Pat's character is someone who is merciful is right because he has told that he loved his wife more than anything else.

The next quote explained that besides loving Nikki, Pat also loved Nikki's family, especially her parents. Pat argued, with loving Nikki's family it also the way Pat loved Nikki as his wife. But in this condition of separation time, Pat could not meet with Nikki and her family and that made him sad.

Umm ... I don't know, really. I mean—I love my in-laws as much as I love Nikki. But it doesn't matter, because I'm thinking that Nikki will be back sooner than later, and then she'll straighten everything out with her parents." (17)

Pat loved his in-laws like he loved Nikki. Even though they haven't met each other in a long time, Pat was sure, when separation time is over, Nikki could explain to her parents and everything will be back to the way as before. Researcher concluded that with the separation time both of them, Pat didn't just care of himself, but also care with Nikki's family. With this, researcher agreed that

Pat is merciful.

In the next quote, explained Pat missed Nikki. This part is explained when

Pat talks with Nikki's photo. The researcher argued that one sign of love is to miss

someone.

So I kiss the picture again, feeling the cold flatness of the glass, leavinga kiss-shaped smudge, which I wipe away with my shirt."God, I miss you so much, Nikki," I say, but the picture is silent, like always. "I'm sorry that I did not originally like this picture, because you would not believe how much I like it now. I know that I told you this was not such a great present, back before I started practicing being kind rather than right.

Because Pat is a merciful person and he is love Nikki so much, it also made Pat miss Nikki, especially in this separation time, Pat hasn't met Nikki in a long time. Because Pat missed Nikki so much, he came to talk to Nikki's picture and explained that he really missed her. Pat also explained that he was on medication and that he was a better man. This he did because Pat really loved Nikki. With this quote, researcher prove that indeed Pat is someone who is merciful, especially to Nikki.

I cannot believe Cliff has actually asked me such a question, especiallysince he is a happily married man himself, but I dignify the inquiry withan answer anyway. "Because I love my wife! That's why!" (52)

It's still about how Pat loved Nikki. In the quote above, Dr. Patel previously asked if Pat wanted to have sex with Tiffany, but Pat denied and emphasized that he was Nikki's husband and he loved Nikki. So it very impossible that Pat will have sex with Tiffany.With the statement, the researcher concluded that Pat was a merciful person even though he had not met Nikki for a long time, he still loved Nikki very much.

After knowing how Pat loved Nikki, this part illustrated that Pat also loved

his mother. The quotation below is a conversation between Pat and Dr. Patel.

Then Cliff says he knows that I have been rough with my mother, shaking her in the kitchen and knocking her down in the attic, which makes me really sad because I love my mom so much and she rescued me from the bad place and has even signed all those legal documents—and yet I cannot rightly deny what Cliff has said. My chest heats up with guilt until I can't take it. Truth be told, I break down and cry—sobbing—for at least five minutes.(38)

Pat told me that he was sorry he had done something rude to his mother. When in fact, Pat really loved his mother because his mother was the one who guaranteed that Pat could get out of the hospital. From Pat's statement, the researcher concluded that Pat loved his mother a lot and that proved that Pat was a merciful person.

As the waves grow in size, I have to jump and kick really hard to keep both of our heads above water, but Emily loves it and begins squealing and laughing and clapping her hands every time we float up. This goes on for a good ten minutes, and I am so happy; I kiss her chubby cheeks over and over. Something about Emily makes me want to float over waves with her for the rest of my life, and I decide that when apart time is done, I will make a daughter with Nikki.(40)

Emily is the child of Pat's friend. This part is when Pat and Emily play on the beach. Described Pat is very happy to play with Emily, Pat also kissing her cheek repeatedly and it made him happy. It can be concluded that Pat is a merciful person, even in child. He felt that when Nikki back to him, they would have a children and he would love them with all things that he has.

From all the quotations above, it shows that Pat is loving person. He loved Nikki, his mother, even he also loved a children. Pat often shows how he loved others by said it directly. Therefore, the researcher argued that one of Pat's characters is merciful.

#### 3.1.2 Optimistic

Besides being merciful, Pat is also someone who is optimistic in his life. Here, the quotes that show about Pat believed in happy ending and he is very optimistic about it. The happy ending here when only Nikki returned to him. So, below are the quotes about Pat who is very optimistic in realized a happy ending.

"I believe in happy endings," I tell him. "And it feels like this movie has gone for the right amount of time."..... I have sworn off movies until Nikki returns, because now my own life is the movie I will watch, and well, it's always on. Plus I know it's almost time for the happy ending, when Nikki will come back.....(17) In Pat's statement, he believed about happy endings. He also believed his life is a movie that has a happy ending. Happy endings that he meant were the end of separation time with Nikki and he could get Nikki back. And the end of all that is, he could realize his happy ending in his life. The researcher argued something that Pat's believed about happy ending means Pat was a optimistic person.

...which is exactly how I feel regarding my body and exercise—but then again, I also feel as if I have an infinite amount of days until my inevitable reunion with Nikki.(16) The quotes explained that Pat was ready if one day he would meet again with Nikki. In this part, Pat felt that he was appropriate to be able to meet again with Nikki. Because this is have not happened yet, but he optimist it could be happen. He hoped to meet Nikki as soon as possible because he felt he had prepared everything well. It can be concluded that, Pat is an optimistic person in his desire to realize a happy ending in his life.

In his conversation with Dr. Patel, Pat tried to explain his expectations and beliefs about the happy ending. Quotes below contained about Pat said that there would be a happy ending time, and that was when Nikki returned to him.

...Plus I know it's almost time for the happy ending, when Nikki will come back, because I have improved myself so very much through physical fitness and medication and therapy." (18)

With Pat's statement above, the researcher can understand how Pat can be so confident that his hoped about Nikki will back to him as soon as possible because he considers having improved his physically and mentally better. Thus, the expectation of getting Nikki back is something he has always believed and he has done many things to make it happen. It can be concluded that, when Pat believed about that he was an optimistic person.

"Oh, I see." Dr. Patel smiles. "I like happy ending too, Pat" "So you agree with me. You think my wife will come back soon?" (17) The answer from Dr. Patel or Cliff, made Pat think that he was a doctor who would support him in whatever Pat did and Pat thought that Cliff believed that Nikki would back to Pat so that he can gain happiness in his love life. In Pat's thought, he also boptimist that he would be very suitable and comfortable in the medication with Dr. Patel because, in Pat's mind, Dr. Patel was not like the previous doctor who was pessimistic about the happiness in Pat's love life it proved with this Pat's thought;

"If clouds are blocking the sun, there will always be a silver lining that reminds me to keep on trying, because I know that while things might seem dark now, my wife is coming back to me soon....."(20)

Pat thought that his separation from Nikki was only temporary, and it made his life like a dark cloud. But he believed that the cloud replaced by a silver lining and it was very bright. So, he believed that although his life was dark, it will be bright again. It can be understood that Pat believed that although he was a separation with Nikki, as soon Nikki will back to him. Pat also believed that God would help him in the darkness, and also he really believed that whatever he had done to improve himself would result in a happy ending, and that was when Nikki back to his life.

...was when I met Nikki, and I'm thinking maybe she was upset by the weight I gained during the five years we were married. Won't she be surprised to see me looking so muscular when apart time is over.(21)

The quotes above explained when Pat lost his weight. He believed that one of the reasons he was separation time with Nikki because Pat was fat, so when Nikki returned, she would be amazed and happy because Pat lost his weight so much, and Pat was muscular. So Nikki would back in Pat's life. Pat clearly described how he optimist about happy endings.

In the next part, Pat got an offer from a friend named Tiffany. Tiffany offered to be a liaison between Pat and Nikki in communication. But, unfortunately, Tiffany didn't want to help Pat for free. Tiffany wanted Pat to be a partner in the dance competition because if Tiffany doesn't have a partner, she won't be able to join the competition.

"I know this is all so complicated right now. But there must be a reason that we are in contact again. There must be a reason that I lost my memory and then was filled with a vicious need to improve myself. There must be a reason if Tiffany was able to arrange this letter exchange. All I'm asking is that you keep the possibility of a reunion open as we continue to communicate through hour liaison." (181) In the quotation above, actually Pat still doubts whether Tiffany really wanted to help him, he also explains that the situation is very complicated, but if there is an opportunity to communicate between Pat and Nikki then the difficulty will end. If there is communication between both of them, Pat increasingly hoped that they could meet and Pat can get Nikki back. This is show that Pat believed and optimist to get Nikki back and it made happy ending in his life realized.

With a clear statement by Pat, in his letter to Nikki, he explained that he had improved himself to be better. He also became Tiffany's dance partner. He believes that God is getting closer to giving him a happy ending in his life that is by getting Nikki back.

"But then I thought about how my improving myself and learning how to dance with Tiffany was like reaching for the gold ring, which is you. Nikki, you are my gold ring. So maybe I will fall off the goddamn carousel, but I have to reach for you, right?" (187)

The statement above also explains that Nikki is a golden ring, and Pat is hoping to be able to get it back. Even though Pat had failed in the past, at least now he could realize his happy ending with Nikki, he was hoping to reach Nikki back to his life. It is cleared that Pat very optimist about getting Nikki back and it means he could reach his happy ending.

Because Pat believed Nikki would back to him, Pat also did a lot to make his hope come true. Pat felt he was better than before. I worked for this happy ending. I am very fit, and am now practicing being kind rather than right. I am not the man you were married to for all those lonely years. I am a better man. A man who will take you dancing and will give up sports entirely—coaching and Eagles—if that makes you happy. My conscience tells me that I should not continue to pursue these feelings, but your telling me to read Twain's novel made me think that maybe you were giving me a sign."

In Pat's expectation, when he becomes a better man, Nikki would back to him. Because he has worked very hard to be able to realize what he hoped for. Pat assumed that his expectations would be realized if he could become someone better, and Nikki would be happy with that. Automatically, when Nikki was happy, Nikki was willing to back with Pat. Pat's expectation of happiness was very high. He was too confident that whatever he did would result in a happy ending in his life, which to get Nikki back.

"I believe in happy endings with all my heart. I've worked too hard on self-improvement to give up on my movie now. Remember where I asked you to marry me? Meet me there on Christmas Day at dusk. This is the only thing I will ever ask of you. But I feel as though you owe me this one last request. Please."

The quote explains how Pat requested that he able to meet Nikki and talk about problems that had occurred, and in his expectation, he wanted to have a meeting with Nikki, and after that, he could ask Nikki to back in his life. Pat hoped to see Nikki on Christmas and it is like a past event where he asked Nikki to be his wife. He optimist, he could meet Nikki again and it was the same as the past events between Nikki and him. All the quotation above show that Pat became someone who was optimistic in his belief towards happy ending while he believed that Nikki would back and live with him as before.

#### 3.1.3 Bad Tempered

Besides merciful and optimistic, Pat's was a bad temper person. Pat often felt difficult to controlling his emotions. The researcher will show some quotation and explanation that Pat is a bad tempered person.

"Misplaced it? It's irreplaceable!" It's just a videocassette, but I can't help feeling angry, which I realize is one of my problems. "How could you lose it when you know how important it is to me? How?"

This quote is when Pat knew that the video of his marriage was lost. Pat's mother said that she forgot the video cassette. Because towards Pat the cassette was important, he could not control his emotions and was mad with his mother. Even though Pat is a merciful person, he is also an irritable person even though in unimportant problem. Therefore the researcher interpreted Pat as someone who was easy to be angry to another.

But I can feel myself getting more and more angry, so before I say ordo anything dumb, I remember that I am close to being sent back to the bad place, where Nikki will never find me. I storm past my mother, go down into the basement, and do five hundred sit-ups on the Stomach Master 6000. (48) Still in the same situation, Pat felt himself getting more angry, so he immediately looked for ways to calm it. He really wanted to not be angry but instead he felt very angry because he lost his wedding video cassette. The researcher concluded that even though Pat was a bad-tempered person, he also tried to calm his emotions and reduce his temper. The quote below is Pat's anxiety because he has hit someone else because Pat could not control his emotions

...I realize that I have once again failed to be kind; that I lost control in a big way; that I seriously injured another person, and therefore I'm never going to get Nikki back now....I look and confirm that there are only parked cars outside, nothing of interest. And then I am talking: "I hit a man so hard—lifting him up off the ground even—I thought I maybe killed him.,,"(97)

Previously this incident began when he and his brother watched a soccer match. After that, there was one soccer team fan who was mocking Pat's favorite soccer team. There, Pat felt offended and angry. Because Pat could not control his emotions so he hit the person an the person was injured.

This quotes was enough to prove that pat is the one who has difficulty controlling his emotions. He often loses control when angry. He can yell at others, even to hit other people. This is one of the bad things in Pat. Therefore Pat also really wants to change and control his emotions for the better.

So, from Pat's characterization that has been explained, the researcher concluded that Pat had a good character of being merciful and optimistic, but

33

because Pat was also a human being, Pat also had a bad character which is bad tempered and usually Pat could not control his emotions.

## 3.2 Pat's struggle to realize happy ending in his life

As the researcher told before, happy ending in Pat's life is when he could get Nikki back in his life. In this part, the researcher divided Pat's struggle into four parts: Physical, emotional, and enthusiastic book reader and got communicating with Nikki back.

## 3.2.1 Pat's struggle to be physically better

The first is, the researcher describes Pat's struggles to be physically healthy. Pat wants to have a fitter and healthier physique. He wants to be physically healthy so that he can win Nicki back. In this novel, a lot is mentioned that Pat has exercised to prepare and to get Nikki back.

"Just how many push-ups are you going to do, Pat?" Mom says when I start the second set of one hundred without speaking to her. "Nikki likes—a—man—with—a—developed—upper—body," I say, spitting out one word per push-up, tasting the salty sweat lines that are running into my mouth." (8)

The quotation above explains how Pat is practicing push-ups because Nikki likes a brawny man. At the beginning of the story, there is no mention of who Nikki is and where she is now, but it is enough to illustrate how much Pat wants Nikki to return to his life. To get Nikki back, Pat is willing to do exercise to make his body shape better according to what Nikki likes. But unfortunately, Pat's struggle is often ignored by many people, and they don't believe that Pat's struggle can make Nikki turn back to him.

``I don't want to stay in the bad place where no one believes in silver linings or love or happy endings, and where everyone tells me Nikki will not like my new body....`(9)

...``It's funny because all the other therapists I've seen said that Nikki wouldn't be back. Even after I told them about the life improvements I have been making, how I am bettering myself, they still were always 'hating on me,' which is an expression I learned from my black friend Danny.`` (18)

This quote supports the researcher's previous statement that Pat fought hard, but not many people believed that Pat would get the happiness of love in his life with Nikki. But, Pat did not care and continued to do many things so that his body was getting fitter and healthier so he could get Nikki back.

"I am in the basement doing shots of water, taking my three-minute break between crunches on the Stomach Master 6000 and leg lifts on the weight bench..."(25)

When he got out of the hospital or a bad place (as Pat has said) Pat continued to do exercises at his home. He kept doing it all so he could see how happy Nikki was because Pat had changed and become a healthier and more muscular man.

".....mostly because I've been seeing them almost every day when I emerge from the basement, push my head and arms through a trash bag-so my torso will be wrapped in plastic, and I will sweat more- and then go running. I always try to coordinate then the ten-mile running portion of my ten hour exercise routine with sunset, so I can finish by running west past the playing fields of Knight's Park, where as a kid, I played baseball and soccer." (20)

In order to support the exercise of his body, Pat to do things quite strange that he was wearing a trash bag and glue it to make it more sweaty when exercising. With this method, Pat can burn calories faster because Pat also explains that he is overweight "....Also, I let my appearance go, to the point where I was maybe ten to seventy pounds overweight,." (16) Here it can be concluded that Pat is a character who has many ways and is willing to do anything to gain happiness in his love life.

The quote above also explains that Pat routinely runs as a form of exercise for his body. He is willing to run within ten miles, and it becomes part of his ten hours of his exercise routine.

When I run, I always pretend I am running toward Nikki, and it makes me feel like I am decreasing the amount of time I have to wait until seeing her again. (21) In addition, Pat thought when he was running, he felt that he was running towards Nikki so that he can get Nikki back. The researchers concluded that whatever Pat was doing was only about Nikki and Nikki. The quotes below will support the Researcher's statement;

"Since my wife asked for some time apart, I've lost more than fifty pounds, and my mother says that soon I'll be at the weight I was when I played varsity soccer in high school, which is also the weight I was when I met Nikki, and I think maybe she was upset by the weight I gained during the five years we were married. Won't she be surprised to see me looking so muscular when apart time is over."(20)

It is very clearly depicted that Pat did many exercising and struggling was only to make Nikki happy and thus could end his apart time with Nikki, and finally, Pat gain his happiness love life with Nikki.

From all the explanations and quotations above, the researcher concluded that one of Pat's struggles was with many exercises to shaping Pat's body better and healthier. And also that way Pat could make Nikki back to him.

## 3.2.2 Pat's struggle to be emotionally better

Next, the researcher describes how Pat struggles to get the happiness of his love mentally life by trying to better. In the beginning, it was not mentioned in detail what was happening to Pat, but it was described if Pat had to go to a therapist regularly to heal and stabilize his emotions and mental states.

"When we arrive, I take a seat in the waiting room as mom fills out some more paperwork. By now, ten trees must have been cut down just to document my mental health,...."(14)The quote states that Pat and his mother came to a place and his mother filled out a form on Pat's mental health, it can be concluded that Pat had an unhealthy mental condition and before this, he was hospitalized, as explained earlier.

Therefore, Pat is trying to restore his mental state so he can get happiness in his love story with Nikki. The next quotation below explains that Pat also agrees to change the medication method that he has been done for. All the things that he did only to get Nikki back immediately.

"Before I leave, Cliff says he will be changing my medication, which could lead to some unwanted side effects, and that I have to report any discomfort or sleeplessness or anxiety or anything else to my mother immediately—because it might take some time for him to find the right combination of drugs—and I promise him I will." (18)

The quote made it very clear that his doctor named Cliff changed his medication method, and he promised to report whatever effects that he experienced when the method was changed. It was very clear that Pat was struggling with an unhealthy mental condition to get better soon. The next quotation will more be portrayed how Pat's struggle to be better emotionally.

"After a brief wait, I meet with Cliff for my second session, like I will every Friday for the foreseeable future. I pick brown this time, and we sit in his leather recliners among the clouds, talking about how much we like a women and "kicking it like we do," which is another one of Danny's sayings." (24)

The quote above explains that Pat underwent routine treatment in every Friday. This has done Pat to improve how he controlled his emotions. The quote also describe how Pat very comfort with the new medication with Dr.Patel because Pat feels Dr.Patel is like his friend, namely Danny. And continued by the quotation below; "I nod and promise I will report any hallucinations to my mother, but I do not really believe I will hallucinate no matter what type of drugs he gives me, especially since I know he will not be giving me LSD or anything like that. I figure weaker people probably complain about their drugs, but I am not weak and can control my mind pretty well." (25)

From the quote above, Pat will have a hallucinatory effect from the medication he was undergoing; this is different from the previous medication because Cliff has changed the treatment process. Because Pat wanted to get better soon, Pat promised to report signs if he had hallucinations even though he wasn't sure about that. What can be emphasized here is how Pat complies with Cliff for the treatment process so that he can become better at controlling emotions.

"Then Cliff says he knows that I have been rough with my mother, shaking her in the kitchen and knocking her down in the attic, which makes me really sad because I love my mom so much and she rescued me from the bad place and has even signed all those legal documents-and yet I cannot rightly deny what Cliff has said. My chest heats up with guilt until I can't take it. Truth be told, I break down and cry-sobbing-for at least five minutes." (38)

In the next meeting with Cliff, Cliff said that Pat had not really been able to control his emotions; Cliff said that Pat was venting his anger at his mother. And Pat was sad because he could not overcome his emotions, which he could not control.

The researcher presents the examples of Pat's emotional form as above to show that Pat has a disruption in controlling his emotions, so this is very disturbing in his life and the people around him. Therefore, this next quote will explain how Pat was truly sad and determined to improve his emotions.

``You want to be a good person, don't you Pat?``

I nod. I cry. I do want to be a good person. I really do.

"I'm going to up your meds," Dr. Patel tells me. "You might feel a little sluggish, but it should help to curb your violent outbursts. You need to know it's your actions that will make you a good person, not desire. And if you have any more episodes, I might have to recommend that you go back to the neural health facility for more intensive treatments, which —"

"No. Please. I'll be good," I say quickly, knowing that Nikki is less

likely to return if I backslide into the bad place. "Trust me."

"I do," Dr. Patel replies with a smile. (38)

After experiencing the above, Cliff raises Pat's treatment level. Cliff also explained that the purpose of all these treatments was to make Pat a good person. The quote above also illustrates how Pat was very afraid to return to the bad place he had lived in, and Pat immediately wanted to get Nikki back in his life.

"You said before that she has a nice body," Cliff adds. "Are you looking forward to seeing it? Maybe she will wear a bikini. What do you think?" I feel mad for a second—because my therapist is sort of being disrespectful—but then I realize Cliff is testing my morals again, making sure I am fit to be out of the mental institution, so I smile, nod, and say, "Cliff, I'm married, remember?" He nods back wisely and winks, making me feel like I passed the test." (71) Furthermore, in the description of the above quote, Pat is being tested by Cliff about Tiffany (the figure of the woman who met with Pat). In the quote, the researcher believes that Pat tried to control his emotions so as not to be angry at Cliff. It clearly depicted with Pat's statement that he was married, and he tries to be calm. With this quote, it can also be concluded that Pat has been able to control his emotions well. This shows that Pat really tried to hold back his emotions so that he could develop to be emotionally better.

From all the quotes above, it can be concluded that Pat is someone who has psychological problems and emotional disturbances. so he has to undergo routine treatment, and Pat wants to undergo treatment with Cliff because he feels better than the doctor who previously handled him. Like Pat's description of Cliff as follows;

On the drive home I tell my mother I really like Dr. Cliff Patel and am feeling much more hopeful about my therapy. I thank her for getting me out of the bad place.....(18) And finally, the researcher's conclusion was that Pat had struggled to improve how to be emotionally better, but he felt incompatible with the previous doctor, and in this treatment Pat has been happier and excited because he likes with this doctor who would help him to fix his emotional problems so Pat can get Nikki back.

## 3.2.6 Pat's struggle to be an Enthusiastic Book Reader

The third of Pat's struggle was about how much he wanted to read literary novels. Pat wants to learn more to make Nikki happy. Because Nikki is an English teacher and she likes reading so much.

"Nikki likes to read, and since she always wanted me to read literary books, I start, mainly so I will be able to participate in the dinner conversation I had remained silent through in the past-those conversations with Nikki's literary friends, all English teachers...."(12)

The quote said that indeed, Nikki asked Pat to want to read books of literature like herself and her friends who liked literature. And after that Pat started trying to like reading literary works. His mother lent him several books from the library so that Pat could fill his spare time by reading.

"My mom has a library card, and she checks out books for me now that I am home and allowed to read whatever I want without clearing the material with Dr. Timbers, who, incidentally, is a fascist when it comes to booking banning. I start with *The Great Gatsby*, which I finish in just three nights." (12)

The first book Pat read was *The Great Gatsby*, the book Nikki likes best. Proved how Pat's struggle in building interest in reading, he could finish the book in just three nights. Here, it can be seen how Pat's struggle in realizing his happy love story with Nikki. Whatever Nikki likes, Pat will learn to like it too. "I do see why Nikki likes the novel, as it's written so well. But her liking takes me to worry now that Nikki doesn't really believe in silver linings, because she says *The Great Gatsby* is the greatest novel ever written by an American, and yet it ends so sadly. One thing's for sure, Nikki is going to be very proud of me when I tell her I finally read her favorite book." (13)

The researcher's opinion above has been proven by the following quote, which mentions how Pat actually only reads so Nikki can be proud and happy. Here, Pat is willing to do anything even though there is a difference between Pat and Nikki's principles about the silver linings.

"Here's another surprise: I'm going to read all the novels on her American literature class syllabus, just to make her proud, to let her know that I am really interested in what she loves and I am making a real effort to salvage our marriage,...." (13)

Continuing with the above quote, Pat is willing to read the American literature to salvage his marriage with Nikki. The researcher's opinion, Pat's struggle to gain his happiness love life with Nikki is enormous. It was emphasized on how Pat tells that "to let her know that I am really interested in what she loves and I am making a real effort to salvage our marriage". The next quote is another reason why Pat is willing to read many books;

".....especially since I will now be able to converse with her swanky literary friends, saying things like, "I'm thirty. I'm five years too old to lie to myself and call it honor, "which Nick says toward the end of Fitzgerald's famous novel, but the line works for me too, because I am also thirty, so when I say it, I will sound really smart." (13) The above quote is an affix to the previous quote. Pat's struggle in liking and reading books was to be able to communicate with Nikki's literary friends. This will make Pat look smart and also to make Nikki happy, and it can make Pat get Nikki back in his life.

Because Pat read many books to make Nikki happy and get Nikki back, the next book after The Great Gatsby that he has read is a Hemingway's book because Nikki is one of Hemingway's fans.

> "Knowing that Nikki does a big unit on Hemingway every year, I ask for one of Hemingway's better novels. "One with a love story if possible, because I really need to study love — so I can be a better husband when Nikki comes back," I tell Mom." (22)

Explained in the quote above, Pat was very enthusiastic about the things he did so that he can gain his happy love life with Nikki. He told his mother that he wants to read Hemingway's romance book so that he can learn about the love story in the novel, and he can be a good husband for Nikki.

"When Mom returns from the library, she says that the librarian claims A Farewell to Arms is Hemingway's best love story. So I eagerly cracked open the book and can feel myself getting smarter as I turn the first few pages. As I read, I look for quotable lines so I can "drop knowledge" the next time Nikki and I are out with her literary friends—so I can say to that glasses-wearing Phillip, "Would an illiterate buffoon know this line?" And then I will drop some Hemingway, real suave." (22)

The Researcher analyzes that Pat is a persistent and confident figure. In accordance with the above quote, Pat is very confident if he can read the novel by Hemingway, he will be able to learn from the story and will become smarter. Furthermore, he will make Nikki proud in front of his friends because he already understands many literary novels, including novels with romance stories by Hemingway.

After Pat read Hemingway's novel, it was explained later that Pat also read classic English literature.

"That scene when Dimmesdale and Hester finally stand together in town for the first time made me wish apart time was over already so i could stand with Nikki in some public place and apologize for being such a jerk in the past. Then I would make her happy for sure. God, she is going to be so impressed that I actually read a book written in old-fashioned English." (50)

In the above quote, Pat does not just read literary works, but Pat will also practice the good things in the novel, especially the romantic things that will make Nikki happy. Because, if Nikki was happy, she would want to come back with Pat.

It can be concluded by the researcher that Pat not only read many books of literature but also practice it in real life when someday Nikki backs to him. In the description of the quote above, it can also be concluded that Pat is an optimistic person to have love life with Nikki again.

After that, the quote below will greatly complement the evidence that Pat did all his struggle to get back to life with Nikki, the next book he read was The Bell Jar, the book that Nikki taught to her students and according to Niki, this book very needs to read by a young woman

"That night I try to read *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. Nikki used to talk about how important Plath's novel is, saying, "Every young woman should be

forced to read *The Bell Jar*." I had Mom check it out of the library, mostly because I want to understand women so I can relate to Nikki's feelings and whatnot." (100)

The reason why the quote complements how Pat struggled to get happiness in his love life because Pat was willing to read books those young women should read. Pat was willing to read the book, so Pat could understand how a woman felt, especially Nikki.

All of the quotes above portray how Nikki loves literary works, and Pat tries to learn to love it too by reading many books, even though most of the books which he read are books that have sad and emotional stories, and Pat is very unhappy with that, because Pat has a hope about happiness in his love life.

Therefore, the researcher concludes that being someone who is enthusiastic in reading literature is a form of Pat's struggle to make Nikki happy and can back to him.

# 3.2.4 Pat's Struggle to Communicate with Nikki

After the three previous forms of struggle, finally, the researcher presents the final form of struggle by Pat. This struggle was done because of Pat, Tiffany, his friend, who met at dinner with Ronny and Veronica. Tiffany asked him to be a partner in her dance competition and promised to Pat to help him communicating with Nikki by letter.

"So. Coming to the point. I am offering myself as a liaison. The two of you can communicate through me, and there will be no trouble. You will be able to write Nikki letters—one every two weeks. I will read these letters to Nikki

over the phone. She will be able to dictate her responses to me, again over the phone, which I will type up on my laptop, print out, and present to you." (150)

The quote above shows how Tiffany tried to explain how she helps Pat to got communicate with Nikki. Tiffany will read Pat's letter to Tiffany by phone, and Nikki will answer it, then Tiffany will type it, and she will give it to Pat every two weeks.

What do I want? Remember when I said I was scouting you? Well, I want to win this year's Dance Away Depression competition, and I need a strong man to do it. Tiffany explains what she wants when she has helped Pat to communicate with Nikki, who is she wants Pat as her partner in a dance competition. And the quotation below depicted how Pat thinks about Nikki's statement and tries to understand it.

Of course, I cannot be sure about anything, since I have no memory of the past few years. Maybe Tiffany made up the story just to get me to perform in her dance competition. This is possible. I certainly would not have volunteered to be her partner, even if I am practicing being kind now. I realize that Tiffany's letter might be a trick, but the possibility of communicating with Nikki is too good to chance—as it may be my last opportunity. Also, Tiffany's mentioning God's will seems to suggest that she understands what apart time is all about. It makes sense that Nikki would want me to take dancing lessons. She always wanted me to dance with her, but I never did.

In Pat's thought above, actually Pat is doubtful about Tiffany's explanation. However, because Pat really wanted to come back to live with Nikki, Pat tried to trust Tiffany's statement, and Pat wanted to be Tiffany's partner in the dance competition. It was also explained that Pat wanted to do this because maybe with this Pat could dance well and Nikki became happy because Nikki had always wanted him to dance with her, but Pat never did it.

"The thought of dancing with Nikki in the future is enough to make me accept that I will be missing the three Eagles games before the bye week, including the home game against Jacksonville. I think about how angry this will make my father, Jake, and maybe even Cliff, but then I think about the possibility of finally living out the happy ending to my movie—getting Nikki back—and the choice is obvious." (153)

Eventually, Pat decided to be Tiffany's partner in a dance competition even though he had to miss a soccer match and might be scolded by his father, Cliff, and Jake. Because of this, Pat thinks that he can get Nikki back in his life.

"Next, I run across Knight's Park, jog around the Websters' house, and knock on Tiffany's door. She answers in a red silk nightgown, squinting at me. "Well?" "When do we start training?" I ask. "Are you ready to commit fully? Ready to give up everything—even Eagles football?" I nod eagerly. "Only I can't miss my therapy sessions on Fridays, because some judge will send me back to the bad place if I do, and then we won't be able to win the competition." "I'll be outside your house tomorrow at two o'clock," Tiffany says, and then shuts the door." (153)

The quote above explains that Pat is serious about his decision. Even though he had to leave the soccer match schedule, but Pat still could not leave his treatment schedule on Friday. And Tiffany agreed.

"Explaining how I learned Tiffany's routine and became an excellent dancer would be difficult—mostly because our rehearsals are long and grueling and extremely boring. We do the same little things over and over again endlessly. For example, if I had to lift a finger in the air for the routine, Tiffany would make me do it a thousand times every single day until I could do it to her liking on command." (156)

Furthermore, it was described that Pat was willing to do dance practice which very bored and its only to be a good dance partner for Tiffany. With that way, Tiffany can help him communicate with Nikki. Pat was willing to obey Tiffany's orders to repeat the dance moves that were done almost every day. Here, Researcher believes that Pat really struggles very hard to be able to communicate with Nikki and get Nikki back in his life.

"So I sit there and start to get nervous myself, especially since I have a lot more riding on this competition than Tiffany does, and she is obviously rattled. I try not to think about losing my chance to send Nikki a letter, but of course, this is all I can think about." (166)

The quote above can be concluded that Pat had done a lot of practice until on the day of the race, he was very nervous about the competition at the same time he thought that if he failed in this competition, it would also affect his chance to communicate with Nikki. The researcher agrees that this could be included in the form of Pat struggling to get the chance to communicate with Nikki, and he can get her back as soon as possible.

So all the forms of Pat's struggle above: to be physically better, emotionally better, to be an enthusiastic book reader, and to communicating with Nikki are how Pat did to realize a happy ending in his life and it means to get Nikki back. The researcher has explained about Pat's struggle to get Nikki back. After did a lot of struggle, here the researcher show a few of Pat's struggle was end. Everything that Pat did to get Nikki back was useless. Because, Nikki and Pat actually divorced, which means Nikki will not back to Pat, and Nikki is also married with someone else and lives happily.

#### 3.2.5 Pat's Struggle was End

In this part, there are several facts written by Pat's friend, named Tiffany. Tiffany said that Pat and Nikki were not in apart time, but they have divorced. Nikki was divorcing Pat.

"..has been providing Nikki within formation about you ever since you were permanently assigned to that neural health facility in Baltimore. It turns out that your family banned Nikki from obtaining information about you, which they could do because Nikki divorced you soon after you were permanently admitted. I know this bit of news has most likely upset you terribly. Sorry, but it's best just to state things plainly at this point. Don't you think?" (149)

The above quote proves that Pat's thought has been wrong. The fact that Pat actually happened was that he had divorced Nikki. There is no agreement between Nikki and Pat about apart time. Pat's thought about apart time is how something that he feels, and he creates in his mind because he has lost his memory.

In Tiffany's long letter, Tiffany also explained the reason why Nikki divorced Pat. Tiffany said that this was a bad thing and Pat lost his memory about this. Tiffany's explanation below is one form of the fact that Pat has experienced, but he lost his memory, and he always believes in his thoughts about happy endings that occur in his life, so Pat often ignores the facts which people around him always try to explain it.

"Okay, this next part is bad too. Nikki was able to divorce you because you committed a crime, which you do not remember. (I am not going to tell you what that crime was, because you have probably blocked it from your memory intentionally; most likely, you are not yet mentally ready to deal with this very frightening reality. My therapist Dr. Lily and I theorize that you will remember committing this crime when you are mentally and emotionally ready.) Nikki was granted a divorce and all your assets, and in exchange, someone else dropped all charges against you. Of course, the deal also sent you to the bad place indefinitely for "rehabilitation." You agreed to all of the above at the time and were deemed to be "of sound mind" by your therapist Dr. Timbers, but soon after being put away for good, you "lost" your memory and your marbles as well." (149)

The quote above proves that Tiffany explained that the reason Nikki divorced Pat was that Pat committed a crime. With that incident too, Pat had lost his memory so that Tiffany could not explain the crime committed by Pat. So from that, Pat had divorced with Nikki and Pat had to be in a rehabilitation place or a bad place which is always named by Pat.

This fact was the actual event Pat had experienced so far. However, due to the factor of lost memory and how much Pat's desire to Nikki, Pat formed his own thoughts about apart time and how his relationship with Nikki had been before.

The quote above and the others before are described that Tiffany tries to explain what facts are happened towards Pat. And then, in the quote below, it is illustrated that Nikki will not come to meet Pat. Pat's thought about Nikki will

come at Christmas was only a hope. And in the bitter reality, Nikki didn't come.

"She's not coming, Pat. I'm sorry."

"I'm staring up into Tiffany's soaking-wet face—wet hair, runny makeup —and I can hardly believe that it's not Nikki. Her words do not register at first, but when they do, I feel my chest heating up, and an episode seems inevitable. My eyes burn. My face flushes. Suddenly I realize that for the past two months I have been completely delusional, that Nikki is never coming back and apart time is going to last forever."

"Nikki."

"Is."

"Never."

"Coming."

"Back." (200)

The last quote about the facts informed by Tiffany described Pat trying to realize if indeed everything in his mind was imagination through a belief about happy endings. Pat really tried to understand that, in reality, he was facing. They were not in apart time, they were divorced, and Nikki would never come and never back.

Another fact that made Pat's struggle was useless is when Pat was remember all the things that be clearly illustrated are the reasons why he committed a crime, how Pat lost his mind, and how Nikki could divorce him.

"But when I enter my house, I hear a soprano sax moaning, and it's strange to hear Kenny G's smooth jazz coming from my bathroom at a time like this. Mr. G's notes are swirling all about. I open the bathroom door; I feel the steam lick my skin, and I wonder why Nikki is listening to our wedding song in the shower. Kenny G's solo has reached a climax once more. The CD player is on the sink, and two piles of clothes rest on

the floor, and a pair of men's glasses are on the sink next to the CD player. Sexy synthesizer chords, faint high-hat taps"(219)

The quote above is Pat's memory that describes when Pat came home from work, and he heard how the saxophone sound of Kenny G. Pat tried to find out where the sound was, and the sound came from the bathroom. Pat tries to think about why Nikki plays their wedding song in the bathroom. And finally Pat found two pairs of clothes in there.

This reality and memory are a bad thing. Pat had experienced it, and Pat never thought that, in fact, the cause of how he could commit a crime was Nikki herself. Although the details of the quotation have not been explained yet, the researcher believes that Nikki was in another relationship with another man when Pat was not at home. The next quotation below describes how Pat commits a crime to the man.

"I'm standing in the tub. My hands are around his throat. I'm between them now, the shower is spraying the back of my coat with hot spokes, weighing down my sweatpants, and he is in the air, begging me with his eyes, pleading for a breath of air. His hands are trying to break my grip, but he is a tiny, weak man. Nikki is screaming; Kenny G is playing; Nikki's lover is turning purple. He's so small, I can hold him up against the tiles with one hand. I cock my elbow back, squeeze a tight, teeth shattering fist, and take aim. His nose explodes like a packet of ketchup. His eyes are rolling into the back of his head; his hands have fallen away from mine." (220)

Pat had seen it himself that his wife was with another man. The guy who always mocked him as an illiterate buffoon. With lost control of emotion, Pat fight the man. Several times the man tried to resist, but because Pat think he was a small man, it was easy for Pat to continue to fight him. This incident and fact are the cause of how Pat could be considered a criminal Pat can't control his emotions well. He just beat up the man. This returning memory brought Pat to further recollection of the reality of what had happened to him.

"When I cock back my fist a second time, the music stops playing, and then I'm on my back in the tub and Nikki's naked lover has fallen out of the tub and naked Nikki is holding the CD player in her trembling hands. When I try to stand, she smashes the CD player over my head once more; my knees give out, and I see the silver faucet rise like some fat, shiny snake to strike the hard spot just above my right eyebrow, and then"

"—I wake up in a hospital and immediately begin vomiting all over myself, until nurses arrive and tell me not to move my head. And I'm crying and calling for Nikki, but she does not come to me." (220)

In the next fact, it still explained how Pat beat the man. But afterward, it was about the fact of how he could lose his memory. Nikki beat Pat so hard until he fell. When Pat tried to get up again, Nikki also hit him again until Pat was unconscious and taken to the hospital. From then on, Pat did not see Nikki again, and Nikki did not come for him.

The researcher can conclude that in fact, if Pat can control his thoughts, he will more quickly remember what happened in his life. Because Pat is very concerned about his thought about happy endings and this makes Pat's thoughts imprisoned in there. In fact, the reality that Pat had experienced was painful and very normal to be left, and Pat should be able to move on in his life without Nikki.

The fact that the researcher will present is not about Pat's memory, but about what he experienced at the time. Pat finds out about Nikki's whereabouts. And finally Pat knew all the facts that had happened so far. "....I saw Nikki outside with Phillip, and they were playing with two children—by the colors each was dressed in, I figured the one in navy blue was a little boy and the one mostly in peach was an even littler girl..."

"...Nikki was wearing the long green-and-white-striped scarf I used to wear to Eagles games, a brown barn coat, and red mittens. Her strawberry blond hair hung freely from under her green hat, so many curls. They were having a snowball fight; Nikki's new family was having a beautiful snowball fight. You could tell the kids loved their father and mother, and the father loved the mother, and the mother loved the father, and the parents loved the children—as they all tossed the snow at each other so lovingly, taking turns chasing each other, laughing and falling into one another's heavily bundled bodies, and ..." (231-232)

The reality above is what Pat experienced at the time. Pat left with Jake to look for Nikki. They arrived at the place. Pat could clearly see how Nikki smiled happily with his family. Not Nikki's father and mother but Nikki's husband and her children. Pat saw how Nikki looked happy. And Pat realized that Nikki was happy without him. Pat observed how Nikki laughed and played with her husband and her children. Like a really happy family, love each other, together and ever after.

"I have to pause again. I swallow several times."

"And I'm just going to remember that scene as the happy ending of my old life's movie. Nikki having a snowball fight with her new family. She looked so happy- and her new husband, and her two children..." (232)

The quote above has proven the previous researcher's opinion. Pat emphasized again that now, Nikki was happy with playing a snowball fight with her new husband and two children. Pat could not realize a happy ending that believed so far and his struggle to realize it was useless. Nikki had lived happily with her new husband and her new family

## **CHAPTER IV**

### CONCLUSION

In this novel, the researcher analyzed the characterization of the main character named Pat Solitiano. Pat is a merciful person, and it is proved with Pat's statement that he loved Nikki. He also said that he loved Nikki more than himself. Besides that, Pat is a merciful person who had to prove when he said that he loved his mother and when he was caring for Emily.

Besides being a loving person, Pat is also an optimist in realizing his belief regarding the happy ending in his life. Pat is very optimistic that with the many things he did, he can get Nikki back in his life. Moreover, the last characterization of Pat is, he was a bad-tempered person. Pat often has difficulty to control his emotions. This makes Pat quickly yell at others and even injured others.

Because Pat believed in happy ending that means to get Nikki back, so he did many struggles; struggling to improve physical better, improve emotionally better, be an enthusiastic book reader, and Pat struggles to communicate with Nikki. Pat did many body workouts to make his body more muscular and healthy because Nikki likes men with muscles in the upper part of his body. Beside improve his physically better, Pat also improves mental and emotional problems and to be a better man, and therefore he has stayed in rehabilitation place and special therapy with Dr. Patel. After that, because Nikki was a literary teacher, Pat struggled to become an enthusiastic book reader. He read many books that Nikki liked, even though Pat actually didn't really like Nikki's favorite books. The last of Pat's struggle was to become a Tiffany dance partner just so he could send a letter to Nikki and he could communicate with Nikki, besides, Pat also believed that by practicing dance, Nikki would be happy and finally Nikki would be willing to back with Pat.

However, in the end, Pat realized that his struggle had to end and be useless because Nikki already had a new husband and family. So the researcher concluded that Pat could not realize the happy ending in his life that he had believed so far.

The researcher provides some suggestions related to this research. New Criticism, it is best to analyze anything toward the text itself, such as the character, characterization, plot, and conflict. The researcher hoped that future research can use this theory to analyze more developed issues and be better to apply them.

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#### **Curriculum Vitae**

SofyFawziaMunafidsyah was born in Mojokerto on May 26, 1997. The first of three children, a couple of Drs.Mukhlason and AinurRochmah. Sofy graduated from DarulUlum 1 Jombang High School. He spent about three years for study and boarding school in there. In 2015 she graduated and continued her education at the UIN SunanAmpel Surabaya Faculty of Arts and Humanities in English Department. This is the last year of her undergraduate study. It took about four years for her to complete her undergraduate education. She is starting in 2015 until 2019.

