

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Grace in his book *Response to Literature*, literature gives special knowledge of life that is not identical with that of real intellectual or critical values. It is actually possible for a well-read person to make mature of life without having great deal of experience (7). It means that every literary work is a result of original thought among humans to represent their existence. It could be formed as the ideas in human life, views, or their experiences. Therefore, literature is human's tool to learn life that also contains of the existence of human experience. Love, hate, emotions, and ambitions are human's feels that can create the experiences.

Fathali M. Moghaddam, through his journal entitled *From Psychology in Literature to Psychology is Literature* also says that psychology and literature selectively examine particular parts of the whole of human experience. More specifically, both psychology and literature adopt as one of their goals the better understanding of overt behavior and the mental life of individuals, and how these are related (505). It means that there is a close relationship between them. If psychology deals with the study of observable patterns of human's behavior, then literature exhibits how human beings behave in dealing with problems and environment. It provides that both of literature and psychology cannot be separated from the condition of human in the daily life.

Talking about the problem in the life, hence, literature, then, has wide range of knowledge in the life, including psychology. Reber mentions that psychology is a science had created to understand the minds and behaviors of various organisms from the most primitiveto the most complex (617).It means that psychology has a great deal to study of human being. Meanwhile, literature relates with imagery of human being. In addition, Abrams notes that psychological criticism deals with a work of literature primarily as an expression, in fictional form, of the state of mind and the structure of personality of the individual author (247). It concludes that psychology is the one of consider discipline science that develops in human character and personality. Moreover, psychology also can use as a tool to raise the value and explore the literary works. Psychology is the endlessly fascinating science of human mind and behavior and it can be a rewarding tool for enhancing our understanding and appreciation of literature (Gillespie 43). Clearly, it shows that literature can be explored by using psychological approach.

Psychological literary criticism can be broadly divided into four kinds, depending on what it takes as its object of attention. It can attend to the author of the work; to the work's contents; to its formal construction; or to the reader (Eagleton 179). Eagleton also add that the most psychoanalytic criticism has been of the first two kinds, which are in fact the most limited and problematical. Rather, in psychoanalyzing the author just run into the same kind of problems about the relevance of authorial intention to works of literature, than psychoanalysis the content comments on the unconscious motivation of

characters. It commits to a lot of elements in the literary work itself, which is build the story. That is why this research choose to analyze the work's contents which in this case is formed a novel.

Novel is a part of literary work. Novel is a kind of story that whose author tries to create the sense while we are reading and experience actual life (Kennedy 180). In other words, novel can give many experiences, suggestion, and motivation that can use to make a better life. Lawrence quotes that among many kinds of literary works, a novel is seen as a literary work that can represent life in all its fullness (16). Somehow, some characters – although it is part of author's imagination – in the novels reflect to real human in reality. Then, toward reading a novel, people can learn about human.

Human nature has the conscious processing to always develop themselves. Donald also states that human nature has been characterized by its flexibility not its rigidity (3). It means that by blessing not only beauty of physic but also miraculous brain and instinct, so that human can develop their existence of every kind aspect in the life through experience. Furthermore, the experience becomes a well-part of human life to learn and develop themselves. This individual development will lead human into achieve their goal in the life. Automatically, the ways to search the goal of life is primarily important since it becomes a passion of people to stay alive and strive.

The issue of search the goal of life is raised in one of Paulo Coelho's work *Veronika Decides to Die*. Therefore, it material is chosen of the research. The novel has origins interest by discussing about life and death; sane and insanity;

her inferiority feelings. Until stage on stage, she starts to revive the motivation of her life and begins to build the goal in her life. Finally, she strives to survive and respects by the meaning of her life. The case that happens through Veronika in the novel seems has agreement with Adler's individual psychology. Adler saw people as being motivated mostly by social influences and by their striving for superiority or success (Feist 65).

Surely, every novel has the elements, such as theme, character, and plot. Character is one of the elements that interesting to explore. It is because character is the imaginary people that author's creates. Moreover, one of Paulo Coelho's work *Veronika Decides to Die* excites to analyze because there are many issues and lessons in this novel that can be explore through the development character of human mind that influenced by society and the future. Furthermore, the study will be dealing by using psychological approach. The psychological analytic theory that will be applying in the study is individual psychology by Alfred Adler.

By choosing a novel of Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die* and Adler's theory, this research deals to make something fresh to analyze. *Veronika Decides to Die* is a novel that tells more about the ways of Veronika search the meaning of life than the case of her suicide or death. Coelho as the author clearly describes the way of thinking of Veronika's character until she develops herself to achieve the meaning of life. So, it is interesting to analyze this novel through the individual psychology, to deeply know what would happen if someone is forced to face a precarious situation. It seems like Adler's statement in his book *The Practice and Theory of Individual Psychology* that, if we look at the matter

closely, we shall find the following law holding in the development of all psychic happenings: “we cannot think, feel, will, or act without the perception of some goal” (3). Moreover, though there are some theses that talking about Paulo Coelho’s *Veronika Decides to Die* but none of the thesis uses individual psychology by Alfred Adler as a tool to analyze this novel. Therefore, the thesis will discuss about reviving the passion of life through suicide of Veronika’s character in Paulo Coelho’s *Veronika decides to die*.

B. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background stated above, the problems of the study will be formulated to answer the following questions:

1. What does Veronika experience in dealing with her suicide in Paulo Coelho’s *Veronika Decides to Die*?
2. How are the revival life’s passion processes on Veronika’s character explained through the mechanism of Adler’s individual psychology?

C. Objective of the Study

Observing the statement of problem stated in the previous, the study is aimed to:

1. To know Veronika’s experiences in dealing with her suicide in Paulo Coelho’s *Veronika Decides to Die*.
2. Second objects of this study is to know the process of life’s passion reviving experienced by Veronika’s character through the mechanism of Adler’s individual psychology.

D. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on Veronika as main character in the Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*. The limitation of this study is to know the process of Veronika's revival passion in her life. This study will discuss by using the theory of individual psychology by Alfred Adler.

E. Significance of the Study

Regarding to the background and the objectives of the research is expected to contribute a great significance both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the study findings will give additional information to literature researchers dealing with psychoanalytic of individual psychology. Through the analysis chapter, the research hopes to broad the readers' concept of individual psychology. Moreover, the research findings are supposed to answers the social issues, that how the passion of life can revive through suicide in one of Paulo Coelho's work *Veronika Decides to Die*. Furthermore, this research expects to provide the relationship between literature and psychology.

Practically, this study may be useful as references for other researchers to conduct psychoanalytic research and as part of extending reading by the researchers who might interested to observe or to expert in psychoanalytic, especially in individual psychology. In addition, this research practically contributes to moral and attitudes study of Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya through the literary study that gives reflection of how to respect life and society.

F. Method of the Study

1. Research Design

The study will employ qualitative method. Creswell says that qualitative research is descriptive in which process, meaning and understanding gained through the words (145). It means that qualitative data can be defined as empirical information about the words, not in the form of numbers. A qualitative research also allows the researcher to gain access the motives, meanings, actions and reactions of people in the context of their daily life. Laurence Neuman says that qualitative method refers to subjective meaning, definitions, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of specific cases (70). In essence, qualitative research is oriented toward the search for meanings, that is, the interpretation and meanings people give to events, objects, other people, and situations in their environment and its focus in the nature of phenomena of human beings, which in this case is conducted on the one Coelho's novel entitled *Veronika Decides to Die*.

2. Source of Data and Data Collection

Because the research design is qualitative, therefore the only technique uses to collect the data is library based, which contains of printed book, pdf file, and journals. The main source of data for this research is the novel itself, Paulo Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die*. Meanwhile, the supporting data takes both from digital and non digital sources. The supporting data here involves printed book and journals such as the form of non digital sources; ebook, pdf

projection of this guilt onto objects as well as a liberation from their control through the death the subject has chosen for himself (international dictionary of psychoanalysis 1687).

4. Villeta : the name of the famous and much-feared lunatic asylum which had been in existence since 1991 (Coelho 12)

