

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter aims to answer the issue on the statement of problems stated in the first chapter. This chapter divides the discussion into two subchapters. The first subchapter discusses about the experiences of Veronika in dealing with her suicide. This subchapter also contains the analysis about how is Veronika as the main character portrayed in the novel. The second subchapter discusses about the Veronika's process in reviving her passion of life seen from individual psychology.

A. The Experiences of Veronika in Dealing with Her Suicide

This subchapter divides into five points, which explains the experiences of Veronika in dealing with her suicide. The first point discusses about the failure of Veronika's suicide. Because of her failure, Veronika has been rescued and hospitalized to the Villette. In the Villette, she forces to face that her heart has irreversibly damage and her life is counted by five or a week left. Those explanations become the second point in this subchapter. Then, the third point contains of Veronika's feelings toward her comes to the Villette. The fourth point is about the experience of Veronika in meeting with the other patients and makes good relationship with them. Later, the next point is about Veronika's experiences of heart attack.

This subchapter describes the experiences of Veronika which in some ways are happened because her decision to commit suicide. Furthermore, some

experiences of Veronika are implied her inferiority's feelings that further signifies her strive for success or superiority. Moreover, the explanation of Veronika as the main character involves in this subchapter.

Reminding that every literary works especially drama and prose must have the characters to makes it alive. As what Bennett and Royle stated that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation (60). Therefore, the novel of *Veronika Decides to Die* by Paulo Coelho also has the characters to role the story. As seems as the title, this novel has a character named Veronika, as the main character. Main character is an important character in a story that is appeared continually so that the main character dominates the story (Nurgiyantoro 176). In Coelho's work, Veronika appears as the viewpoint for significant progress of the story. She dominates a large amount of chapter and receives the most attention from other characters.

In the story, Veronika is depicted as a young beautiful girl, 24 years old, who has everything in her life such as healthy, occupation, and beloved parents. Veronika is an easy going person who always looking for the easy option to solve whatever problem in her life. It happens such to read an article that she does not like in order to wait the tranquilizers dissolved in her stomach.

While she was waiting for death, Veronika started reading about computer science, a subject in which she was not the least bit interested, but then that was in keeping with what she had done all her life, always looking for the easy option, for whatever was nearest at hand. Like that magazine, for example (Coelho 2).

his article that dynamic character is when a character undergoes a change in values, beliefs, or behaviors as a result of his/her experiences (3). It means that dynamic character grows and progresses to a higher level of understanding in the course of the story. Moreover, Veronika, then, exhibits some kinds of change – of attitude, purpose, behavior, as the story progresses. Veronika is a developing character who changes and grows to a new awareness of her life as the result of her experiences. This novel talks about the development of Veronika from the beginning until end of the story. In this story, she undergoes to a higher level in her life, who changes her value about the life, revives her purpose of the life, and modifies her behavior to achieve her goal of life.

Furthermore, from the quotations explained above, the study deals that Paulo Coelho as the author of the novel *Veronika Decides to Die* uses the direct and indirect to reveal the characterization of Veronika. As what explained in the previous chapter that, direct characterization is when a writer conveys information about a character by telling the information directly to the reader. Meanwhile, indirect characterization occurs when the author shows the character in action, and lets the reader interpret what these actions reveal about the character (Bacon 1). It concludes that direct characterization towards of through narration when the author comes right out and tells the reader things about the character. Otherwise, indirect characterization leads the reader come to clear understanding of the character toward their speech, though, and action.

the square and a handsome young man passing by her window in a few moment after smiling to her. She thinks that it would be a beautiful memory of her life. She thinks that finally she can leave the life whereas it could be repeated in the thirty, or fifty years later.

Veronika had decided to die on that lovely Ljubljana afternoon, with Bolivian musicians playing in the square, with a young man passing by her window, and she was happy with what her eyes could see and her ears could hear. She was even happier that she would not have to go on seeing those same things for another thirty, forty, or fifty years, because they would lose all their originality and be transformed into the tragedy of a life in which everything repeats itself and where one day is exactly like another (Coelho 10).

Unfortunately, Veronika's effort to commit suicide was failed. At the beginning, she is confused of what happened. She awakes with a specific pain and lay down in a bed. Until finally, a nurse tells her that she is in the Villette. A most mental asylum in Ljubljana, city of Slovenia.

When she opened her eyes, Veronika did not think, this must be heaven. Heaven would never use a fluorescent tube to light a room, and the pain – which started a fraction of a second later – was typical of the Earth. Ah, that Earth pain – unique, unmistakable (Coelho 11).

"I'm joking, it's not really hell" the voice went on. "It's worse than hell, not that I've ever actually been there. You're in Villette" (Coelho 11)

Despite the pain and the choking feeling, Veronika realized at once what had happened. She had tried to kill herself, and someone had arrived in time to save her. It could have been one of the nuns, a friend who had decided to drop by unannounced, someone delivering something she had forgotten she had ordered. The fact is she had survived, and she was in Villette (Coelho 11-12).

Veronika's attempt to commit suicide failed. She can survive from the overdose of sleeping pills she has swallow. Though there is no explanation in

is going to leave Vilete at least in the end of the week. Eduard realizes that there has been no point there. Yet, his attraction to Veronika becomes stronger than he thinks. Therefore, he follows Veronika who has been out from Dr. Igor's office. Veronika rejects him because she is tired and wants to sleep.

Eduard has control on himself after got the Veronika's rejection. He brings himself to the Vilete's library. Afterwards, Eduard makes a riot by saying aloud to the librarian that he wants to leave Vilete. The librarian considers of what happens to Eduard is a crisis. So, he rings a bell and a few moments later two male nurses appeared. They hold Eduard, but he tries to free himself from those nurses. They bring Eduard to the ward, whereas the way to the ward has through the living room, and all the other inmates have gathered there. Some of them laugh and others beat with their hands on chairs and tables. It comes to the worse situation.

At that time, Veronika awakes from her sleep and wants to know what a terrible happening outside. Eduard sees Veronika and manages to break free from the nurses. He tells the nurse to wait him a minute before take him. Then, he tells to Veronika that she is an important for him. Veronika does not believe of what Eduard's saying because he is a schizophrenic. The functionaries does not want that situation become worst anymore. Then, they take Eduard on the ECT (Electroconvulsive Therapy) treatment. It also uses as warning to the other patients. Veronika

Fraternity must out of Vilete at least once a day. It uses to prevent things from degenerating of insane and cured people there.

It has been long time for Mari wants to quit as a lawyer and be a volunteer in the any place that is needed her. Five years before she comes to the Vilete, she had watched a horrifying film about poverty in El-Salvador. Toward this film, Mari thinks that how important her life was. Mari argues that life gave her too much of joy and comfortable, whereas there are no shortage of tragedies in the other side of the world. It makes her wants to dedicate herself to help people in that other side of the world, which tragedies occur repeatedly. Mari considers of her wants in the rest of life to work in humanitarian organization. Therefore, she wants to discuss about it with her husband. Thinks of her decision-making, just makes her fall into the panic attack. She feels between happy and fears because she will be out of her routine of chooses another way of her life. She cannot control on herself. So it makes she has panic attack more and more until finally she brings herself to the Vilete in order to get a treatment.

Mari had been putting off the decision for a long time, but perhaps now was the moment to talk to him. They had been given all the good things that life could possibly offer them: a home, work, good children, modest comforts, interests, and culture. Why not do something for others for a change? Mari had contacts in the Red Cross, and she knew that volunteers were desperately needed in many parts of the world (Coelho 114).

Mari is the one who has been affected afterward of Veronika comes in. Mari rethinks about her existence in the Vilete. She imagines

herself as if in Veronika's position, whom knows that the death made appointment to come. Mari feels that the case of Veronika makes her realizes of how important her life was. She remembers of her want to be a volunteer and dedicate her rest life to work in the humanitarian organization. It is the goal of her life that she was forgotten in last of five years, while she feel comfort in the Villette.

A lot of the inmates had been affected by the young woman's arrival in the hospital, Mari among them (Coelho 110).

The young woman's case, though, was dramatic because she was so young and because she now wanted to live again—something they all knew to be impossible. Some people asked themselves, what if that happened to me? I do have a chance to live. Am I making good use of it?

Some were not bothered with finding an answer; they had long ago given up and now formed part of a world in which neither life nor death, space or time, existed. Others, however, were being forced to think hard, and Mari was one of them (Coelho 112).

Besides, Mari has been influenced Veronika to improve her personality. It is not the first time Veronika sees Mari since she slapped the old man. In the night Veronika follows the Sufi treatment, she meets Mari again. She sits down beside Mari, whose talks to her on the sidelines of a break. The quotation below takes from the conversation between Veronika and Mari.

“You get up too,” said Mari, grabbing her hand. “We've got a five-minute break.”

“I'll leave, I don't want to be in the way.”

Mari led her to one corner. “Haven't you learned anything, not even with the approach of death? Stop thinking all the time that you're in the way, that you're bothering the person next to you. If people don't like it, they can complain. And if they don't have the courage to complain, that's their problem.” (Coelho 98)

This section divides into five points, which relates to Veronika's process of reviving the passion of life. This study uses individual psychology to analyze the Veronika's process of reviving the passion of life. The first point analyzes the feelings of inferiority experienced by Veronika. In this point, the study tries to explain two of Veronika's feelings of inferiority. The second point discusses both of Veronika's striving for success and superiority. This point will explain both of Veronika's strive, for success and her superiority. Then, the third point analyzes Veronika's fictional finalism. It examines of how Veronika sees the life before commits to suicide until she revives her goal of life. Later, this study explains the stage of social interest that happens in Veronika's self. The last point of this discussion presents about the success of Veronika to build her style of life and creative power.

1. Feelings of Inferiority

Veronika's experiences when she deals to commit suicide signify that she has the feelings of inferiority. Veronika defines her reasons to commit suicide is because she thinks that her life meaningless and she has no power to change the world. She feels that everything in her life is the same and gain nothing by continuing her life. Another reason is she feels that everything is wrong in the world, and she has neither way nor power to makes it right.

She believed herself to be completely normal. Two very simple reasons lay behind her decision to die, and she was sure that, were she to leave a note explaining, many people would agree with her. The first reason: Everything in her life was the same and, once her youth was gone, it would be downhill all the way, with old age beginning to leave irreversible marks, the onset of illness, the

Again, Veronika unconsciously feels a desire to live event she rejects that. It happens after she slapped the old man – one of the members of Fraternity. She feels something strange and difference after slaping him. Veronika is a woman with respectability. She does not belong to be inappropriate person. However, for the first time, here she is in the Villete, already slaps the old man. It is the first time she behaves of inappropriate. She fights the cowardice of herself because feels embarrassed of the joke made by him.

After the slap tragedy, Veronika unconsciously starts to brave herself out from her routine off. She feels that she will die sooner, so it makes her thinks that she does not need to learn anymore. Nothing is wrong if she steps outside from her routine to discover new things before the death come to pick her.

She was going to step outside the routine, thought Veronika. She was goingto discover new things, when she didn'tneed to learn anything more—all sheneeded was patience (Coelho 47).

Veronika also mark her beginning to strive for success when she interests to play piano again. It is the biggest one she has been dreamed for a long time ago. It is the most of her wanted, which buried since her mother rejects her wants to be. Then, finally, she can bring her want up from the deepest of her heart and soul. It is no matter for Veronika if the only audience is Eduard, a schizophrenic.

In the last days of her life, she had finally realized her grand dream: to play with heart and soul, for as long as she wanted and whenever the mood took her. It didn't matter to her that her only

Three quotations above describes the Veronika's lack of social interest. The first quotation happens for the first time she considers to make relationship with Zedka or not. Although then, she decides to meet Zedka. The second quotation occurs after the tragedy of slapping the old man. Veronika has sufficient time to moving backward by keeping away from anything and everyone. The last quotation forms from Veronika's self in order of her answering the nurse when she tells her that her mother came. Therefore, all quotations implies that Veronika has the lack of social interest at the beginning of her comes in the Villette.

Somehow, during the days past in the Villette, Veronika meets some mental patients, they are: Zedka, Eduard, and Mari. One hand, they had been affected by Veronika's arrival in the Villette. Towards Veronika's case, they realizes of how important the life was, when they have a chance to live. On the other hand, the inmates have influenced Veronika. Zedka helps Veronika to know the meaning of crazy. She talks too much about the sense of insanity. It makes Veronika lose her assumption of how terrible be in a place full with mental patients. Another patient that Veronika met is Eduard. Eduard is the schizophrenic whom admired of Veronika's talent in playing piano. Later on, Eduard realizes that he falls in love with Veronika, although Veronika felt this feeling first to Eduard.

Finally, Veronika recognizes the biggest she want is playing piano with her soul in the rest of her life, although her audience is only Eduard. Playing piano becomes the basic reason of Veronika to finds her passion in

“A long time ago, when I was just a child, and my mother was forcing me to learn the piano, I said to myself that I would only be able to play it well when I was in love. Last night, for the first time in my life, I felt the notes leaving my fingers as if I had no control over what I was doing. A force was guiding me, constructing melodies and chords that I never even knew I could play. I gave myself to the piano because I had just given myself to this man, without him even touching a hair o’ my head. I was not myself yesterday, not when I gave myself over to sex or when I played the piano. And yet I think I was myself.” Veronika shook her head. “Nothing I’m saying makes any sense.” (Coelho 162)

“You’ve got nothing to lose. Many people don’t allow themselves to love, precisely because of that, because there are a lot of things at risk, a lot of future and a lot of past. In your case, there is only the present.” (Coelho 162)

The quotation describes that Veronika realizes a power innate from herself. The creative power which gives her much sense. A strange sense that she almost cannot identify as herself. Veronika tells this feeling to Zedka at the time she waiting of Eduard’s awake from ECT treatment. She feels the feeling when she has play a piano after joining the Sufi treatment. Otherwise, Zedka also tells to Veronika that she has nothing to lose. Implicitly, Zedka suggests her to only enjoy the present in spite of the past or future. Furthermore, Veronika applies the Zedka’s suggest when she escaped Villette with Eduard. She does not any mention and talk either past or future.

Eduard and Veronika chose the most expensive restaurant in Ljubljana, ordered the finest dishes, and got drunk on three bottles of 1988 wine, one of the best vintages of the century. During supper they did not once mention Villette or the past or the future (Coelho 200).

The end of the story shows that Veronika escapes from Villette with Eduard without knowing what is the truth happen on herself. In fact, she does not know that her heart is rightly health. Nothing curiously damaged of her heart. She does not know that the heart attack happened before is just

counterfeit from the drug known as fenotal. Therefore, by unknowing the truth, Veronika, will be thought that every day is miracle because the death not come to pick her. Hence, Veronika will think that every day is her last day to live. By adopting that each day is a crucial, she will develops her style of life as well as every day is a miracle.

She would consider each day a miracle—which indeed it is, when you consider the number of unexpected things that could happen in each second of our fragile existences (Coelho 209).

Each actions that Veronika done out from her behavior is creative power. It comes from the innate self of Veronika as human being. Individual psychology believes that innate people is flexibility toward their problem. Veronika among be a possible person to make herself flexible of her behavior. Anything occurs in her life is because she want it happens. Moreover, by thinking that each day is a miracle, Veronika will develops her style of life to be psychologically healthy person.