

**NICKY'S SURVIVAL IN USA IN WINTER DREAMS  
THE INVINCIBLE SUMMER NOVEL BY MAGGIE  
TIOJAKIN**

**THESIS**



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S U R A B A Y A**

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by Maggie Tiojakin**

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NICKY'S SURVIVAL IN USA IN *WINTER DREAMS AND INVINCIBLE  
SUMMER* NOVEL BY MAGGIE TIOJAKIN

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Approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners of English Literature  
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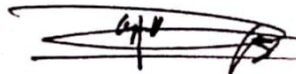
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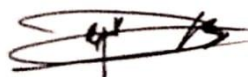
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This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of Yeni Ambarsari (Reg. Number A73216092) entitled *Nicky's Survival in USA in Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer Novel by Maggie Tiojakin* has been approved and accepted by the board of examiners for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)*, English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

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## ABSTRACT

Ambarsari, Y. (2023). *Nicky's Survival in USA in Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer Novel by Maggie Tiojakin*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M. Hum (II) Endratno Pilih Swasono, M.Pd

Keywords: Survival, Conflict, Characters.

This study aimed to describe the survival experienced Nicky's F. Rompan as the main character in *Winter Dreams* and *Invincible Summer Novel* by Maggie Tiojakin. This study also described the factors that survival in USA her social condition, several jobs and how the main character overcomes her struggle for better life.

This study uses qualitative approach in relation to the use of clear and systematic description about the phenomena being studied. Descriptive study in textual analysis was applied in this study to analyze conversation of the main characters through the novel. The data were collected by first read the novel. Here, the researcher finds some quotations and narratives from this novel that suit the issue discussed in this study. The analysis was continued by identifying the main characters and survival in USA for better life.

The results of this study indicate that Nicky's character is a brave, independent, jealous, intelligent, kind and anxiety. In the internal and external conflicts that occur to the main character, it occurs in the life of his family and friends, namely his struggle for survival, red dreams of various jobs and accepting the reality of Nicky's life as a foreigner in another country. The researcher explains how the main character's survival in describing the characters and conflicts that occur in survival the main character's for getting a better life

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## ABSTRAK

Ambarsari, Y. (2023). Kelangsungan Hidup Nicky di AS *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer Novel by Maggie Tiojakin*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M. Hum (II) Endratno Pilih Swasono, M.Pd.

**Kata Kunci:** Bertahan Hidup, Konflik, Karakter.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan kelangsungan hidup yang dialami Nicky's F. Rompan sebagai tokoh utama dalam *Winter Dreams* dan *Invincible Summer Novel* karya Maggie Tiojakin. Studi ini juga mendeskripsikan faktor-faktor yang bertahan di USA kondisi sosialnya, beberapa pekerjaan dan bagaimana karakter utama mengatasi perjuangannya untuk hidup yang lebih baik.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dalam kaitannya dengan penggunaan deskripsi yang jelas dan sistematis tentang fenomena yang diteliti. Studi deskriptif dalam analisis tekstual diterapkan dalam penelitian ini untuk menganalisis percakapan para tokoh utama melalui novel. Data dikumpulkan dengan membaca novel terlebih dahulu. Di sini, peneliti menemukan beberapa kutipan dan narasi dari novel ini yang sesuai dengan masalah yang dibahas dalam penelitian ini. Analisis dilanjutkan dengan mengidentifikasi karakter utama dan kelangsungan hidup di USA untuk kehidupan yang lebih baik.

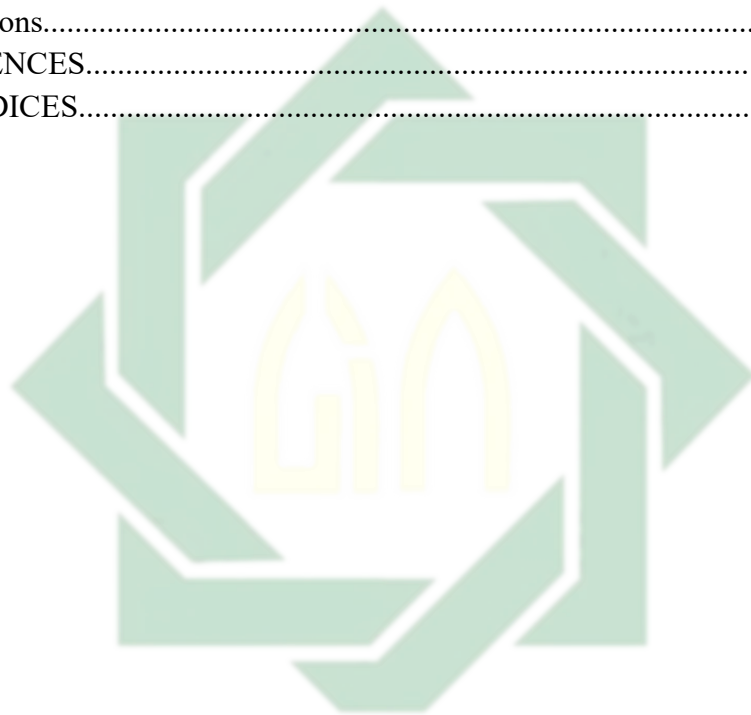
Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter Nicky adalah pribadi yang pemberani, mandiri, pencemburu, cerdas, baik hati dan kecemasan. Dalam konflik internal maupun eksternal yang terjadi pada karakter utama adalah terjadi pada kehidupan keluarga dan teman temannya yaitu perjuangannya bertahan hidup, merah mimpi dalam berbagai pekerjaan dan menerima kenyataan hidup Nicky yang menjadi orang asing di negara lain. Peneliti menjelaskan bagaimana kelangsungan hidup karakter utama dalam mendeskripsikan karakter dan konflik yang terjadi dalam perjalanan hidup tokoh utama dalam mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature is an expression of humans in written or oral works based on thoughts, opinions, experiences, feelings in an imaginative way and a reflection of reality through literary works. It can be in the written form with more precise words such as drama, novels, or poetry. There are a lot of expert defining Literature in different words. Wellek and Weren (1956) define literature as imaginative. Imaginative writing is fiction, artistic, and verbal imitation of life."

Dealing with this study, the researcher focuses on analyzing a novel. Novel is a form of literary work According to John Reichert's (1977), a novel is one kind of modern literature, it is mainly related to real-life as the inspiration for each other and making the good unity of the story. The intrinsic elements such as the plot, characters, setting, and theme o help the author transfer the central idea. In a novel usually there will be one big problem that will be faced by the main character. The author will pouring some emotions, the detail description of condition that happened in the story, so the readers will drift away to the story. Dinnuriyah (2014) claimed that reading a novel will make the reader imagine the detail manifestation of the novel.

One of the novels which thrills the researcher is *Winter Dreams and Invincible Summer*. In this novel, the author tries her best to direct the readers to image the realities of illegal immigrant life through the stories contained in the

novel. It is a popular novel, it is young adult fiction written by Maggie Tiojakin and published in 2015. The novel tells about Nicky F. Rompa, an Immigrant from Indonesia who came to America. His parents are divorce, five years later, he came to USA because he want to stay away from his abusive father. In USA, Nicky stayed with his relative as he started life as an illegal foreigner. Everything run well at first in USA, Nicky got a job, he met a beautiful girl, he took a road trip and got great experiencing life that he never imagined before. However, this pleasure did not last long. He needed to survive his life as illegal immigrant in USA. He got a hard choice between going home to Indonesia or keep surviving here. However, Nicky tried to fight for life despite experiencing doubts in his future life. This novel presents Nicky's life crisis as a comer in USA with several problems that he has.

Kennedy (cited in Rachmaniah,2019) Struggle mean everything is always up for grabs. Most struggles have already been won and lost. Struggles whose outcome can be predicted need not be undertaken to be lost or won. Some struggles need only be referenced to be won decisively. It takes courage, energy, and imagination to open what has been settled for reconsideration. In line with McKenchie (in Putro, 2018) states that the struggle is a task or goal requiring great effort accomplish or achieve. *Winter Dreams and Invincible The Summer* is one of the literary works that inspires the researcher a lot with all the struggles they have experienced in Nicky's life.

There are previous studies that analyzing about the main character's struggle and characterization. There also a research which analyze about *Winter*

*Dreams and Invincible The Summer* but that research was focused on the moral value of the story. However, this research is different from the previous studies that the researcher explained at the outside. The researcher desire to investigate causes Nicky's struggles to survival in the USA. How do he faces his problems in the story and how is Nicky's characterization described in the novel. Those will be the focused of this study.

### **1.2 Problems of the study**

This study formulates the research questions as follow:

1. How is Nicky's characterization described in *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*?
2. What are Nicky's survival in the USA in *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*?

Referring to the problems above, the researcher set the objectives as follow:

1. To describe Nicky's characterization in *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*.
2. To describe Nicky's survival in the USA in *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*.

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

The researcher expects that the result of this research can contribute to the development of knowledge in the literary theory related to characterization, setting and conflict found in the novel *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*.

This thesis provides some suggestions for readers. First, this thesis gives benefit to the readers to understand the novel as the literature which reveal widely the real struggle that is facing by the survival in USA. Second, the researcher hope that this study can increase reader's development of knowledge in literary theory about someone's cause struggle and characterization. Therefore, the researcher also give contribution to the study of literature especially for English Department's student of State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

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

The scope of this study is to analyze Nicky's life in the novel *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*. This study limits the analysis to Nicky's character and her struggle in the US. The researcher uses new criticism theory to help analyze the data, especially the character concept, setting, plot and conflict.

#### **1.5 Method of the Study**

In this chapter, the researcher discusses research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis. The methods of this research are explained below.

##### **1.5.1 Research Design**

This research used qualitative methods. Whereas Bogdan and Biklen (1982) stated that qualitative study is descriptive in which all the data is collected in words or pictures rather than numbers. Data from novels and other related sources presented the research finding.

### 1.5.2 Data Sources

The data in this research were words, phrases, conversations, and narratives in *Winter Dreams and Invincible The Summer* novel written by Maggie Tiojakin which indicated Nicky's survival in USA. The data were obtained from the version published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama on September 14 2015. It contains 340 pages and 43 chapters.

### 1.5.3 Data Collection

In collecting data, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method with the steps as follows:

- a. The researcher read the novel deeply to understand the story and determine the research topic.
- b. The researcher selected the quotations from the novel related to Nicky's struggle to survival. The quotations were phrases, sentences, dialogues, and narratives.
- c. The researcher categorized the data based on the research questions: Nicky's characterization and his survival in the USA.

#### 1.5.4 Data Analysis

After doing the data collection, the researcher analyzed the data with several steps as follows:

- a. The researcher described Nicky's major characterization *Winter Dreams and Invincible The Summer* novel.
- b. The researcher described Nicky's survival in the USA in *Winter Dreams and Invincible The Summer* novel.



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## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

##### 2.1 New Criticism

Tyson (2006, p.135) said that the standard method of studying literature during the 1940s to 1960s was New Criticism. The New Critics believe that the best and most accurate interpretation of each text can be found in the text itself. This argument is reinforced by Wellek and Warren in their book entitled *Theory of Literature*. Wellek also explained that the basic elements in a literary work are plot, theme, character, setting, language style, and point of view. New Criticism theory is all about literary texts, this does not mean considering the historical background, economic conditions, author biographies, political backgrounds or whatever that is outside of literary works as unimportant. That's because New Criticism theory believes the text as the main focus in literary study. With New Criticism we can analyze for ourselves and know the character of Nicky in the novel.

Although literary works have so many elements, in general, many New Critics only focus on Tyson states that the ways to identify the author's intention or the reader's interpretation is to carefully examine the formal element of the text, such as characterization, time and place or setting, point of view, plot imagery, metaphor, and symbols. Increase, you can understand you can find them. As a formal element, plot is one of the most important tools we can use to analyze a literary work in the novel. Therefore, based on the new criticism, the researcher



chooses conflict and plot to analyze the character of Nicky's in the *Winter Dreams* and *The Invincible Summer*.

### 2.1.1 Characters and Characterization

This theory serves to determine the existence of characters and characterizations in the novel *Winter Dreams* and *The Invincible Summer* and how much influence it has on the conflicts that occur in them. The character in literary works is the most important element. The characters in the story describe the attitudes, interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles expressed by these characters. Wellek and Warren (1976) explain character to understand how the actions and attitudes of characters change or develop. They define the character developing or changing as that static characterization does not leave a meaningful change from the action and does not occur directly in the change in human relationships that are the center of the story. Characterization develops, namely having permanent changes in several aspects of character, namely personal changes or developing for a change in life, changes in actions and feelings.

According to Kennedy and Gioia (cited in Aqilla, 2021) Character is character is a fiction person who lives in a story. This is the one who take the biggest role to make the story "true to life". Roberts and Henry (cited in Fachruddin, 2021) argues that characters are the person present in dramatics of narrative work, who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with the moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say in the dialogue and what they do in action.

Tyson (cited in Aisyah, 2018) says that one of the way to know the author's intention or reader's interpretation is by examining carefully the formal elements of text such as characterization. Pooley (cited in Aprillia, 2015) defines characterization as the method that an author uses to acquaint the reader with his characters. Author may use any or all different methods of characterization. In line with Pooley, Agtasia Claimed that Characterization is an important element of building drama or novel. Through the characterization, the reader can understand about the individual character whose life is being told by the author.

### **2.1.2 Conflict**

Conflict is the essence of a fiction that is creating a plot. According to Folarin (2015), experience in human society has shown that there is a degree of variation in conflict. Conflicts come in several types. Sociology identifies conflicts between individuals and conflicts between groups and in politics identifies conflicts between ethnic or state in international disputes.

Conflict is a change in social problem that occurs between two or more parties which results in differences of opinion and the absence of agreement between the two parties. Perrine (cited in Aqilla, 2021) defines plot as connecting structures of incidents or events in a story starting from opening until the end. Plot also deliver detail things that reveal every case in a story. Conflict also means instability, harmony and insecurity. Disagreements that are resolved unusually can lead to violence without a sense of unity and a desire to bring down opponents.

Conflict is a social symptom that is completely present in life socially, so that conflict is inherent, meaning that conflict will always exist in every space and time, anywhere and anytime. Elly M. & Usman K. (2011:345), defines the term conflict etymologically comes from the Latin "con" which means together and "fligere" which means impact or collision. In general, the term social conflict contains a series of phenomena of conflict and conflict between individuals, from class conflict to international conflict and war.

In every social life, there is not a single human being who has the same, both from elements of ethnicity, interests, will, purpose, and so on. From every conflict, there are some that can be resolved, but some cannot be resolved, resulting in several acts of violence. Violence is a symptom of the inability to address the roots of conflict, causing violence from the smallest power to war.

### **2.1.3 Plot**

The Plot is one of the important elements in forming a literary work. The Plot itself has to be sequenced, making it easier for readers to follow what is happening in the text. The Plot also draws the reader into the character's life and helps the reader understand the storyline the character creates.

The Plot is essentially what the characters do and what events happen and are experienced by the characters. The Plot is a linear presentation of various things related to the characters in the story and their meaning. Perrine (Cited in Aqilla, 2021) defines plot as connecting structures of incidents or events in a story starting from opening until the end. Plot also deliver detail things that reveal every

case in a story. Hancock (cited in Fachrunnisa, 2020) defines plot is a sequence of events that occurs to characters in situations in the beginning, middle, and end of a story. In conventional stories, plot has three main parts. Rising, action, climax, and falling action leading to a resolution or denouement.

The researcher uses several theories from experts to examine the things contained in the novel "Winter Dream and The Invisible Summer," especially on the plot elements and plot structure, referring to the description of separation and general description of literary life, which is a fictitious prose story in length. Certain, which writes on the character's real-life movements and actions, not just feelings.

#### **2.1.4 Struggle**

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, struggle is trying very hard to do or to achieve something that is difficult. It also means to make someone's way with difficulty in the specified direction. Marsam (Cited in Sudarni, 2017) argues that the struggle comes from the word that means struggle, a fight, for survival or independence of the State.

Harrison (cited in Sari, 2021), the struggle is a natural element of life that involves some suffering and measures our resistance to the flow of life. In line with Braun, Linder and Asimov (cited in Wiedaninggar, 2018) claimed that everybody always has problems in their life. The problems can be simple or difficult. Sometimes, they affect their way of thinking in facing life. Supported by Webster (cited in Azka, 2021), He defines struggles as meaning to try very hard to

deal with a challenge, problem, or difficulty. In a simple word, struggle means how we are dealing with difficulty upon us that must be going through. Every struggle provided different kinds of levels of difficulty.

Luh Ketut Suryani (cited in Sudarni, 2017) argue that there are three kinds of struggles as follows:

- a. The struggle to accept the reality of life

Marsam (cited in Anggraeni, 2020) The struggle comes from the word that means struggle, a fight for survival or independence of the states. Frankl (cited in Sudarni, 2017) mentions that the meaning of life as something that is personal, and can change over time as well as the situation changes life goes on. Individuals are asked what the meaning of life at any time or situation is and then be accountable. Kaur, Thakul and Dayal (2021) stated that Struggle is trying to do something especially when it is difficult. Fulfill your dreams and fight all the troubles that come in your way also we called struggle.

Braun, Linder and Asimov (cited in Wiedaninggar, 2018) claimed that the way people react to the struggle is called by adjustment. Through hard situations in life, people's way of adapting will increase. And it will be better if a certain person can accept the struggle and consequences in life.

b. The struggle to achieve dreams

The ideal is a feeling of the heart, which is a desire that is in the heart. The ideals are part or one of the elements of the human view of life, namely something that humans want to achieve through effort. Something can be called an ideal if there has been an effort to realize something that is considered an ideal. Krishnannada (cited in Wirda and Purwarno, 2019) stated that struggle that will be faced by person can be different because they have different dreams to be achieved in their life. In conclusion, different dreams may have different struggle.

Linder (cited in Husna, 2021) claimed that, in facing the struggle people can make adjustment which divided into 3 categories, the first is the problem solving, the second is the acceptance toward the situation, the third is the defense mechanism as repression and denial. If dreams never come true, in fact, the dream is not wrong. Dreams have no limits, and it's just that the journey of hunting for dreams is limited to reaching them.

c. The struggle to survive a life

Tourine (cited in Astasia) argues that the struggle can be coming from the social surrounding. struggle is a part of our life, without Struggle we cannot see the truth of the world. Khaur, Takur and Dayal (2021) believe that Struggle is the real way we live. If they can pass the struggle, they can reach a higher position in life. They claimed that life is a challenge and it leads to the struggle. In addition, they conclude that struggle is such a thing to show us the real truth of the world.

## 2.2. Previous study

The researcher found a study related to this research which is from Khairunnisa Anggraini in 2018 entitled “aspek moral dalam novel winter dreams perjalanan semusim ilusi karya Maggie Tiojakin”. This research is also analyzing the same novel as the researcher does. Using structural theory, her research focused on the moral aspect of the novel.

However, those research have similarities with this study but still have differences. There is one study that analyzed the same novel with a different focus. Other studies explain the moral values of novel *Winter Dreams and Invincible The Summer*, while this study focused on the survival that is faced by the main character. Another studies also discussed the cause struggle of the main character but in the different novels and the different theories that are used. Furthermore, this research focuses on analyzing the character described in the novel and the main character to survive as an survival for better life.

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## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the study presents an analysis of Nicky's life as one of the main characters in this novel by using new criticism theory. This research analyzes the struggle of Nicky's life as an immigrant in the novel. The following are Nicky's traits that appear in the *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer* novel.

#### 3.1 Nicky's Characterization

The researcher identifies, describes, and analyzes Nicky's character and personality depicted in the novel. The researcher also identifies and analyzes the life of the author, Maggie Tiojakin, who is depicted as the main character in the main character of Nicky's *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer* novel.

##### 3.1.1. Courage

Dare to do something dangerous or life-threatening, so the meaning of the word Courage here is always thinking positively and never thinking negatively. Courage is defined as a character that is brave enough to take risks in making decisions quickly and on time. The character of courage in a person is not owned from birth, but this trait can be formed by creating a conducive atmosphere so that he feels comfortable and more confident. According to Paul Findley (2003), courage is a trait to defend and fight for what is considered right by facing all forms of danger, difficulty, pain, etc.



“ I couldn’t sleep thinking about what I could do with the rest of my life in *negara orang*. I could always go back home, surely. But that other life. the life I have left behind. No longer makes sense to me. and Going home would mean giving up on whatever promises America had in store for me. (p. 84)”

“My visa expired in a few days and the letter I had sent to the Indonesian consulate in New York was deemed invalid as I no longer live with the Abbots....  
On the day George W. Bush took his oath as 43rd president of the United States. I began my life as an illegal alien. I had never broken the law before. I realized that by staying I was looking at imprisonment and deportation. (p.98)”

The above quotation shows that Nicky’s courage was serious in leaving Indonesia and desperately going to America alone, without knowing what would happen to his life in the future. The quotation also shows that Nicky is desperate because he risks being an illegal immigrant.

### 3.1.2 Independent

Independent is the attitude of a person who always does things independently without direction or depending on others, not always dependent on others. Humans are basically social creatures who need other people to survive. However, there are some people with independent personalities. Being accustomed to living alone often makes independent people seen as capable of being leaders for themselves and will not depend on others.

“I thought of the people in my life who were no longer a part of it. I thought of what it meant to be liberated. I was independent now. I no longer had to rely on or please anybody, and my life was my own.” (p.107-108).

The quote above is Nicky’s words which show his feelings. He wants to be independent and serious in his life. He does not want to depend on anyone else.

### 3.1.3 Jealous

As humans, we have surely experienced feelings of jealousy in any form. Jealousy can also be considered immaturity, where we cannot accept that someone closest to or other people feel the happiness or achievement of their success. In the novel *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer*, Nicky's character is described as a jealous boy. His character can be seen from a problematic life background with his divorced parents, so he is jealous of the happiness of others.

At one time, Nicky realized that he was a stranger who met a couple named Dev Akhtar and Natalie, and he did not know what his role was there, so he accidentally formed a functional family that made him reborn in life. One time, Dev and Natalie took Nicky to his parent's house and introduced him to his father and mother, who worked as professors at Northeastern University. Mr. Chandra asked about the life of Nicky and his family.

“His father, Chandra, asked me about my family. He was probably in his late fifties, with graying hair and mustache, and though he seemed rigid, he was actually a barrel of laughs. I told him: I had a younger sister. I didn't tell him about my parents' divorce felt like a failure to me. I wasn't embarrassed about it, and I knew none of it was my fault, but still, it seemed hard to admit.”  
(p. 107).

The above quotation shows that Nicky always felt jealous that Dev was a very lucky man.

### 3.1.4. Smart

Nicky is also described as a very smart person, Nicky always has a strategy to get what he wants on his way to survival and find jobs in another city. It looks like

he likes the writing world. The narrator describes this characterization when Nicky is taking a creative writing class for ESL students. Artin, the lecturer, recognizes Nicky's intelligence when Nicky is writing stories. It can be seen from the quote below:

“You have a talent for writing” said Artin  
I'm serious, “But talent alone is not enough, you have to read a lot.  
“You can do with it what you please, But I'd hate to see you waste  
your talent. your writing's got both depth and color,” said Artin.  
(p.136- 137).

In the story, Nicky states that he likes to write but still does not know what he will be in the future. Artin, the lecturer, convinces Nicky to focus on his writing skill because Artin thinks Nicky has a potential skill. It is stated in the quote below:

“You will work on your craftsmanship. But what you already  
have -which plenty of contemporary writers would kill for- is the  
ability to bring your writing to life. You have immense talent. now,  
be a writer or not, it's your decision. But I wish you would give it a  
chance. see where it leads you,” said Artin. (p. 171).

### 3.1.5 Kind

Nicky, in this novel, is described as a human being who is very kind to everyone. His good character is seen when he meets a busker buying two cups of hot chocolate and offers it to the busker named Chris Monaghan. Nicky's kindness can be seen in the quote below:

“A white man with a guitar strapped around his shoulder sat at  
the end of the platform, playing a sad melody. Train came and went.  
I stuck around to listen to him play. I bought two cups of hot  
chocolate from a vending machine and offered one to the guitar  
player. His name is Chris Monaghan. He is twenty-seven and a  
student at the Berklee College of Music.” (p.104)

### 3.1.6 Anxiety

In the story, Nicky wants to survive, especially when he has to deal with her family and realizes that he has every problem in the struggle. According to Ramaiah (2003, p.10), anxiety happens to almost everyone at a certain time. Anxiety is a normal reaction to situations that are very stressful for a person's life.

“I ended up at Thirsty Scholar drinking my third glass of Guinness. The bar was heavily populated by college students. The youth of America offends me. They are full of vitality: a surge of energy in the way they laugh, smile, talk. Even when they're intoxicated, their pride is intact. They are everything I can never be. They are born to accomplish things or inspire change. Me, I have next to nothing. As an illegal immigrant, I make an easy target. I'm hunted down all the time. So I ran. It's the only logical response. I run when I'm seated. I run in my sleep. I can't stop. I don't want to go home. And I don't know where else to go” (p.199)

The quote above shows how Nicky is very worried about his status in America as an illegal. Meanwhile, Nicky tries to calm down her feelings and understand them. Eventually, Nicky realizes her reflection in the big mirror and meets Esme at the bar.

“I told Esme about my parent's divorce, about my mother's decision to remarry, and what my father did when she left. I told her about Reno, the school I went to, and the people I used to hang out with. I also told her about Shahnaz, my little sister, and my growing suspicion that she might have started dating. I had never felt this way about anyone. It was odd that I should have had no inhibitions pouring out all the details of my life in her presence.” (p.202)

The above quotation shows that Nicky always felt very bad because he had

many problems with his family and felt sadness in his life's struggles. However, Esme tried to give Nicky an understanding of it and shared some disturbing details about her own family with Nicky.



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### **3.2 Nicky's survival in the USA**

People always have problems in their own life. In this case, Nicky has many obstacles to achieving her dream. Thus, I always have motivation behind the dream. The novel describes Nicky's struggle as an immigrant. Nicky is a man's escape from his past and only to find his self-worth as an illegal immigrant who hopes for a more beautiful life in America. He has to face many things to survive, especially when dealing with her family, social condition, and traveling desire. In her struggle, he experiences many things that change her into a different person, whether it is a good or a bad person.

#### **3.2.1 Cause of Nicky's survival in the USA**

The following are the causes of Nicky's survival in the USA:

##### **1. Family**

Nicky, the main character in this novel, is described as a man with a younger sister named Shahnaz, who is about fourteen years old. They are very close despite having a big age difference. Nicky's family went through a divorce, and his parents agreed to a custody arrangement that would see him live in one place with his father and Shahnaz in another place with his mother. Moreover, about a year after the divorce, Nicky's parents' divorce process took place quickly without any hindrance from his extended family.

Nicky grows up in a conflict between his parents and is afraid of his father's rude attitude. Therefore Nicky knows, and he deals with every problem he

has. In the family, a person will experience several phases of life. According to Carter & McGoldrick (2003:114) in Santrock explain the cycle which consists of six phases, including (a) leaving home and becoming an adult living alone, (b) joining the family through marriage (a new partner), (c) becoming a parent. And a family with children, d) a family with teenagers, (e) a family in middle age, and (f) a family in old age. We will look at the critical aspects of each emotional process involved in the transition from one phase to the next and change the family status needed to build the mental changes that will occur.

Regarding parent-adolescent conflicts, Shantz (1987) explains that conflicts between children and parents during adolescence are formed as inter-individual activities involving conflicting behaviors, including quarrels, disagreements, and arguments. Nicky's mother introduced me to her new friend, Uncle Barry, who was her new husband.

## **2. Social Condition**

Nicky, the main character in the novel, comes from a broken home family whose father is an office worker and his mother is a housewife. He lives in Indonesia, where a peaceful life with a harmonious family and mutual support of a child to realize his dreams and a family that loves and respects each other creates a happy, calm and peaceful atmosphere in family life.

According to Gunarsa, Singgih (1991) suggests the concept of a happy family, namely when all family members feel happy and are characterized by reduced tension, disappointment, and satisfaction with all their circumstances and existence. Meanwhile, the family is not happy if there is one or several family

members whose lives are filled with tension and disappointment. They never feel satisfied and happy with the situation, and their existence is disturbed or hampered.

In the author's view, it is a situation where every family member can carry out their roles and responsibilities, far from conflict or quarrels. However, in every family, quarrels or conflicts are unavoidable, but as long as this is still a fight over small things. Of course, this is still within reasonable limits, but the problem is if the fight lasts for a long time, mainly if the fight occurs between father and mother, it will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the child.

Nicky is a boy who struggles to find his self-worth in his family's disintegration. Nicky lives with his father because his mother is married to Uncle Barry. Since Nicky decided to live with his father, he experienced violence because of his father's disillusioned attitude towards his mother's marriage.

“That night, after the wedding reception, Dad exploded with anger because I commented on the suit that Uncle Barry was wearing. I thought the suit looked luxurious and classy”.

“Dad took my comment as a satire on his mediocre economic condition. Dad said I didn't really live with him”

“Defend it! Come on, defend it!” Dad snapped.

“Can I not express my opinion?”

“Continue what you say! I'll let dad throw it on the spot!”

“Just hit.”

But in an instant, dad's hand flew through the air before landing on my face, hitting me until I fell. (p.22)

Since that incident, the relationship between Nicky and his father has always been a quarrel due to the usual conflicts. He has no one at home other than his friend Reno, a college friend who always listens to his problems. In this case, Nicky lacks love from his parents because he is busy alone and rarely tells everything about his life. He lives with the flow and does not know what will



come in the future. Therefore, her mother suggested a better life with Aunt Riesma, a distant cousin of her mother who lives in Boston and lives with her husband, Frank Abbott, a mechanic, and auto repair shop owner, and has a daughter, Leah.

One day, his mother picked up Nicky to get a passport and at the embassy to get a visa to live with his aunt in a foreign country to fulfill his dream. Therefore, it is clear that social condition is one of the main reasons Nicky wants to struggle for a better life. He wants to improve her life and prove to her parents that he can live alone with her dreams in a foreign country.

### **3. Traveling Desire**

Nicky experiences “love” when he lives in Boston with his aunt and meets Polina, Nicky’s cousin Leah’s school friend. They met at a party then. Nicky felt his first love with Polina because he was amazed by her beauty (Maggie 38-39).

Erik Erikson (1950) famously claimed that Sigmund Freud described the healthy person as someone who can “love and work.” Erich Fromm (1955) argued that the central challenge of being human was overcoming the human inevitabilities of loneliness and insignificance through union with nature, other people, and the diverse aspects of the self.

### 3.2.2 Nicky's Survival for a Better Life

#### 1. Becoming a Cashier Convenience Store in Kenmore Square

Nicky, the main character in the novel, realizes that he lives in a foreign country when his aunt says, "I should try to use all the time I had on my hand. She suggested that I apply for work". "I would feel better if you had somewhere to go every day." She said, "In America, there's nothing worse than being idle." (p.29-30).

Motivation is a set of attitudes and values that can influence individuals who can achieve more real things with individual goals. According to Smith, motivation is categorized as an internal process that influences the direction, persistence, and vigor of goal-directed behavior. So, he applied and was accepted to work in a convenience store near Kenmore Square. Mr. And Mrs. Fong were immigrants from Vietnam. They have lived in Boston for thirty-one years and are very kind.

However, there is always a limit to everything. Nicky knows that he cannot stay in her current condition without money. Besides, there was also the visa problem. Therefore he worked hard for Mr. and Mrs. Fong.

"At the store, I began working double shifts, from morning till night. I wanted Ma to stop sending money to Tante Riesma."  
 "Each night, at the end of my shift, I made sure to count the store's pretty cash reserves. Mr. Fong had a special pouch for it, which I would then lock inside a portable safe. I would also fax the day's sales report to Mr. And Mrs. Fong." (p.74)

In the shop, Nicky realizes that his mother also stopped sending money, and now he is paying his rent, food, and everything. So, he must work hard in this country.

## 2. Becoming a Writing Course Adult Education Center in Cambridge

After having a difficult time as a cashier, Nicky wants to focus more on creative writing classes. The course was held twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday, from seven to nine in the evening. He has to ask Mr.Fong to adjust the schedule so Nicky can make time for the course.

“Tante Riesma told me to start taking my future seriously. She said I could not go on working here illegally, or spending time carelessly. She was adamant about this. She encouraged me to take inexpensive classes at an adult education center and work my way up”.(p.72)

“The concept of creative writing does appeal to our sense of freedom of expression but this doesn’t mean you can just write, without observing any rules. The rules will always be there. If your facts are solid, what you say will have integrity.” (p.110)

## 3. Becoming a Chauffeur in Maradona’s Limousine Service

Nicky realizes that he has to fulfill the need to survive in the country. Therefore, he has no choice but to accept Richard’s job offer. Nicky wrote a note to Mr. Fong in which he resigned and faxed it to his house at the end of the job.

“The next day, he came to the store to ask me for an explanation. I didn’t want to sound ungrateful by telling him that I was leaving for another jobs, so I lied, saying that I had to leave the United States. The lie grew as it went out of my mouth. I spun a bogus story about a family emergency that required I presence back home. My grandfather had died. Mr Fong believed every word I said and offered extra money to take home, to help with expenses. I didn’t have the heart to take it. He asked if I was coming back to Boston and I told him maybe, but I wasn’t sure”. (p.139)

At first, Nicky does not feel any pressure at all. He tries to enjoy her new job. He knows that she has to adjust herself by accepting her current condition.

#### 4. Becoming a Receptionist at Star-Journal

After having a difficult time working in the Maradona limousine, Nicky wants to get another job. He can learn positive things from his struggles. Therefore, Nicky tried to find some strategies related to his work. Nicky does not want to think about money alone. He needs to focus more on the struggle to find his dream. Nicky has a friend named Artin who always encourages him and gives the best advice for his future.

“You’ll be paid under the table. It’s not much, perhaps a lot smaller than what you’re making now, but it is a good place to get you going if you’re serious about your writing.”

“Are you absolutely sure about this?”

“Yeah.”

“What changed your mind?”

“Well, I’m just tired, is all. I’m tired of going with the flow. I’m tired of being that guy who’s never going to amount into anything. I’m tired of running. Everybody wants to be somebody, especially here in America. I get that now. And, I guess, I want that, too.”

(Tiojakin, 2015, p.279-280)

The quote above shows that Nicky was worried about his failure and could not dedicate what he has now to his future. What he has is only for himself. Nicky feels that what he is doing now is for what he has. He only has himself and a few friends like Artin to live a better life. Nicky feels that no one owns him. The main character works and lives his life for what he has now. In life on this earth, a person must have ideals and dreams to be achieved. However, achieving that kind of success is not easy. It takes struggle and hard work to follow the capacity of people who want to achieve that goal.

However, Nicky realizes that living in a foreign country is difficult. He tries

to do many things to survive. Nicky is considered intelligent because he knows how to deal with the problems of his life. He tries to find a suitable job for him which is to become a writer, because in his life books have changed everything with his skills so far. Therefore, instead of becoming a receptionist, Nicky tried the jobs for a short time to intern at his place for three to five months working in the star journal.

“The new job was not as interesting as I had expected. I was placed in the mailroom to sort out incoming mail and organize outgoing ones. Sometimes I would be assigned to answer reader’s inquiries using the journal’s template that has been approved by the editors.”

“Twice a week, I was asked to replace Mrs. Lenora at the front desk. Suffice to say. It wasn’t a challenging job and far from glamorous. It didn’t have anything to do with writing, either except for the times I was told to write back to the readers using an electric typewriter, which Rozak said was so much better than computers. (Tiojakin, 2015, p.292-293)

From the explanation above, we can see that Nicky, for the first time, cannot just be a front desk. Here it is explained that the main character experiences a struggle in introducing his working conditions which are so boring and different from his previous work. After working long hours, Nicky enjoys his job at the front desk. He got a job that matched his desires and expertise as a journalist. Here is the quote:

“In November, the sky had gone dull again, and the clouds were heavy and dark. I finally got a chance to sit down and talk to Leo Wallace and asked him to assign me a more challenging task. He said, if I wanted to, I could help out the editorial department and work a few beats. He said if I did well enough, he would consider the opportunity of sponsoring my stay in America as a real journalist. I thanked him and promised him I would do my best.” (Tiojakin, 2015, p.321)

Finally, from the quotation above, it is evident that Nicky will accept the offer. He struggles for a better life as an editor-writer or real journalist in the editorial department. Moreover, he knows what to do and struggles for a better life in a foreign country.



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## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

In this conclusion, the researcher concludes the analysis discussed in the previous chapter to find out the character of Nicky described in the story and the struggles of the main characters in the novel *Winter Dreams and The Invincible Summer* by Maggie Tiojakin. The novel tells about Nicky's as an immigrant to survive better life who comes to America with unresolved problems in his life. Researchers analyze using new critical theory to analyze the main character.

The characters of Nicky described in the story are: a) a courageous person because he desperately lives overseas and is an illegal immigrant, b) an independent man because he does not want to bother other people and try to get a job to be able to survive by himself in the overseas, c) a jealous person, it is shown when he meets his friend and said that he feels embarrassed about his family status, d) an intelligent person, it is shown in the story that Nicky has a great potential skill in writing, e) a kind person, Nicky is described as a kind person, the simple things that are showing the kindness are when he gives affection to other people that he does not know well, f) an anxiety person, it is shown in the story when Nicky is feeling worried with his status in the overseas and the status of his family.

In the story, Nicky struggles with living as an illegal immigrant. He lives in a broken family where he is separated from his sister, who goes with his mother,

and he lives with his father. Nicky gets tortured by his father several times. So, he decided to go to America by himself.

Nicky also faced internal conflicts. He experienced a dilemma at work and finally chose to survive by trying several jobs as a cashier in a convenience store, writer, personal driver, and newspaper office receptionist to support his social condition. He tries so hard to survive as an illegal immigrant in America. He does every job that he thinks he is capable enough to do with his status. A conflict also occurred because his family did not care about him, and the conflict was resolved so that he lived to continue his life's journey.

Based on the research purpose, this discussion is oriented to describe the character, soul, and behavior presented by the main character named Nicky. The main character becomes the object of discussion in assessing the main character with a new critical approach by the researcher. Furthermore, concluding the character's description is reflected through the conflict and behavior of the main character mentioned above.

Finally, the researcher concludes that Nicky's conflict in the main character is his struggle to survive, namely for the people he loves, and the rest is about his dream of becoming a tourist who walks across and tries to conquer opportunities and dreams in his way.



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