

**NORA SEED'S SELF-DISCOVERY IN MATT HAIG'S *THE  
MIDNIGHT LIBRARY***

**THESIS**



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## ABSTRACT

Maindoka, I. A. M. (2022). *Nora's Self Discovery in Matt Haig's The Midnight Library*. English Department. Islamic State University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Itsna Syahdatud Dinurriyah, M.A.

Keywords: self-discovery, coma, anti-depressan

This thesis aims to analyze the way the main character discovers herself. It is represented by Nora, the character in *The Midnight Library* Novel penned by Matt Haig. There are two main research questions to identify how Nora discovers herself: (1) how is Nora characterized in the novel? (2) how does Nora discover herself?

This research uses new criticism in order to analyze Nora's characterization. Freud's concept of personality development which contain id, ego, and superego also uses to find out the way Nora discovers herself. The descriptive qualitative method uses to make the analysis more systematic.

This research reveals that Nora is characterized as a smart and talented girl but indecisive and easy to surrender. She is also described as an unsociable character which influences her action in facing a problem. The way she faces a problem is also affected by id, ego, and superego. The researcher finds out that Nora's id is wanting to be accepted, especially by all she loved ones. Feeling unaccepted and excluded from others makes Nora decides to commit suicide which is her ego. Instead of dying as she wants, Nora is in a coma. Throughout the coma, Nora dreams of trying to be everything that she could not be in her root life. Experiences many lives that she wants to, Nora's superego lead Nora discovers that everything is not always can be as she expected. She realizes all the kindness of her root life that she does not know before. She also rediscovers her potential within herself. She is eager to live and do many things.

## ABSTRAK

Maindoka, I.A.M. (2022). *Penemuan diri Nora Seed dalam novel The Midnight Library karya Matt Haig*. English Department. Universitas Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Dosen Pembimbing: Itsna Syahdatud Dinurriyah, M.A.

**Kata Kunci:** penemuan diri, koma, anti-depresan

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana cara karakter utama berhasil menemukan dirinya (self-discovery). Nora Seed, karakter utama dalam novel karya Matt Haig yang berjudul *The Midnight Library*, merepresentasikan self-discovery dalam cerita tersebut. Terdapat dua pertanyaan dalam penelitian ini untuk mengidentifikasi bagaimana Nora berhasil menemukan dirinya: (1) bagaimana karakter Nora tergambar dalam novel? (2) bagaimana Nora menemukan dirinya sendiri?

Penelitian ini menggunakan kritik baru untuk menganalisis karakterisasi Nora. Selain itu, konsep perkembangan kepribadian Freud yang terdiri dari id, ego, dan superego juga digunakan untuk mengetahui cara Nora menemukan dirinya. Untuk membuat analisis penelitian ini lebih sistematis, metode deskriptif kualitatif juga digunakan.

Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa Nora merupakan gadis yang cerdas dan berbakat. Namun, ia juga sering ragu-ragu dan mudah menyerah. Nora juga digambarkan sebagai karakter yang suka menyendiri dan introvert yang mana sifat itu mempengaruhi Nora dalam bertindak untuk menghadapi masalah. Selain itu dalam menghadapi suatu masalah, Nora juga dipengaruhi oleh id, ego, dan superego dirinya. Peneliti menemukan bahwa id Nora yaitu ingin diterima adanya terutama oleh semua orang yang dicintainya. Merasa tidak diterima dan dikucilkan dari orang lain membuat Nora akhirnya memutuskan untuk bunuh diri yang mana merupakan egonya. Bukannya mati seperti yang dia inginkan, Nora koma. Sepanjang koma, Nora bermimpi masuk dan mencoba berbagai versi kehidupan nya. Setelah mencoba banyak kehidupan yang dia inginkan, akhirnya Nora sadar bahwa apa yang dia harapkan tidak selalu bisa terjadi. Nora juga menyadari bahwa kehidupan aslinya sungguh sangat indah yang mana sebelumnya ia anggap sebagai mimpi buruk. Selain itu, Nora akhirnya menemukan kembali potensi-potensi dalam dirinya untuk hidup kembali dengan baik. Penemuan diri Nora kembali inilah superego Nora.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

According to Koswara, personality is a term that refers to certain social images received by individuals from group or society, then the individual is expected to behave based on or in accordance with the social picture or role they receive (2005, p. 35). Personality itself can change during a human's lifespan. As Minderop (2010) defined personality, "Personality is an integration of all aspects of a person's unique personality become a unique organization, which determines, and is modified by a person's efforts to adapt to his ever-changing environment" (p. 8). The definition above implies that personality can change over time. These changes occur due to human adaptation to an environment's changes.

*The Midnight Library* is a story about Nora's growing journey to find the meaning of her life so that she becomes a better person. This novel was written using the third point of view. In the novel, Nora is characterized as a smart girl because she is one of top students in her school and she also has many talents within herself such as has a sense of music and good in swimming. Despite being smart and talented girl, Nora worried about her future exceedingly. It is because her unconfident and unsupportive parents who always not allowed Nora to do what she wants. Therefore, Nora feels unaccepted by her parents.

The novel starts with the omniscient narrator that says she will commit suicide. Then, the story continues with various events that cause Nora's despair

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until she commits suicide such as, Nora disappointed her father by quitting swimming and leaving her father's dream of joining the Olympics. Nora also resigned as vocalist for The Labyrinth, the band created by her brother, Joe and her friend, Ravi, when they received an offer from the big record label. Thus, her relationship with Joe and Ravi becomes worse. Nora was also fired from her job as a shopkeeper and piano tutor in the same day. Another event, Mr. Banerjee, the old man who used to ask her to help him get the medicine, told her that someone else could get the medicine for him.

Every decision and step that Nora took became a nightmare for her. She felt unwanted and unneeded. She thought everything will be better if she was not here. Therefore, she decided to take her own life by consuming all her anti-depressant with wine. Surprisingly, rather than die as she wanted, Nora went to the strange library where tons of books compiled. It is not an ordinary library, but it is the place between life and death located. In there, the books is a gate that can bring to the parallel lives. Therefore, Nora got an opportunity to visit and try all her live versions that she could be. In one life, she married with her fiancé, Dan. In other life, she lived in Australia with her best friend, Izzy, and she was being a glaciologist, a rock star, an Olympian winner, and etc. By visiting all other versions of her life, Nora is expected to release all her pain and her burden all this time. Unconsciously, these experiences raised Nora's understanding of her life and herself. At the end, she woke up from her coma and became a better person than before. She had no intention of taking her own life again. Instead, she was being grateful for her life.

In short, this research explores Nora's way to find out about herself which the researcher called self-discovery. In *The Midnight Library*, Nora is depicted as an individual who dislikes her life and turns into someone grateful for her life. It is because she finally discovers herself. This matter becomes the reasons why the researcher chooses this novel. This novel presents how the main character's behaviour changes drastically.

Some studies have used *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig as the object. First, there is Zevania Veda Sarasvati's thesis entitled *The reflection of guilty feeling through Nora Seed character* (2021). The second is Inka Zahwa Sabrina's thesis entitled *Self-Efficacy Development of Nora Seed* (2022). The last study is Amy Mastura Madjid's thesis entitled *Earned Secure Attachment of Avoidant Personality Disorder Client*.

Many studies dealing with Nora as the main object analysis. However, none has been done in focus on the way Nora heals herself in order to discover herself, which is from the way her superego process. Therefore, this research discuss some essential points, such as Nora's characterization and Nora's superego as the way she discovers herself.

From the background of the study, the researcher formulates some questions as below:

## 1.2 Problems of Study

1. How is Nora characterized in *The Midnight Library*?

2. How does Nora discover herself through personality development in *The Midnight Library*?

### 1.3 Significance of Study

The present research is expected to serve in contributing to the following:

1. Theoretical: to give the apparent contribution in the field of literature as a reference for further research, especially for anyone who wants to do a research related to this topic. Moreover, it can increase students' knowledge of literature, especially how to analyze the character's behaviour using psychoanalysis concept and new criticism theory.
2. Practical: to give the reader an understanding that people can change overtime. Moreover, the changes can be influenced by their characterization and the three components of id, ego, and superego.

### 1.4 Scope and Limitation

The researcher analyzes the novel entitled *The Midnight Library*. This novel has 703 pages and is divided into seventy-five chapters. To narrow this study, Nora as the main character becomes a central issue. The researcher focuses on the way Nora discover herself. The new criticism theory will be used to analyze Nora's characterization, while the psychoanalysis theory by Freud will be used to analyze the Nora's way of discovering herself.

## **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

Self-discovery: a journey that requires individual to sincerely look at who they are, how they feel, what defines their core values and aspirations, and discovers what it means to be them, not what others expect other people to be (Tranquil Spaces Counseling, p. 2, n.d.).

## **1.6 Research Method**

### **1.6.1 Research Design**

The researcher uses a descriptive-qualitative approach. Since the researcher is concerned about the text (including words, phrases, sentences, and clauses), the researcher conducts this research using the qualitative approach.

Qualitative research focuses on words rather than statistics, although it can indicate the frequency found in a transcript of the action that occurs (Daymon & Holloway, 2011).

### **1.6.2 Research Data**

The researcher uses the book entitled *The Midnight Library* written by Matt Haig. The primary data source is in the form of printed books and e-books. In addition, the researcher also takes the supporting data from books, journals, articles, and some previous studies related to this study.

### **1.6.3 Data Collection**

The researcher will do some steps to do this study:  
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1. Read the novel. To gain a deeper understanding, the writer reads several times, at least three times. The first and second readings are conducted to understand the story and plot deeply, while the third focuses to parts that related to answering the problem study.
2. The writer highlights or marks the page that carries the characterization of Nora and Nora's superego as the way she heals herself to discover her true self.
3. Collect and note the important data highlighted in step two into the table to make the analysis easier later.
4. Analyze the data collected by classifying them into some points mentioned in the problem study above.

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## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 New Criticism

New Criticism is a literary criticism that appeared in the United States and began to dominate around the 1940s until the 1960s (Tyson, 2006, p. 129). This term originally came from John Crowe Ransoms in *The New Criticism* (1941), which previously had no name. Several figures associated with the development of New Criticism including Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, and Cleanth Brooks, the most prominent figures, along with his work entitled *The Well-Wrought Urn*.

New criticism was born as a reaction to previous literary criticism, namely historical literary criticism, and biographical literary criticism. Historical literary criticism is literary criticism that emphasizes the study of literary history without concerning the intrinsic elements of literary works. Meanwhile, biographical literary criticism focuses on studying the author's biography (Darma, 2004, p. 55). Therefore, new critics try to emphasize 'the text itself' in analyzing the work without caring about the biographical and sociological matters.

According to Hartoko, new criticism is a literary criticism that directs attention to its literary works (egocentric), separated from the influence of the author (intentional fallacy), the history of the occurrence and the opinion of the reader (affective fallacy) and critics (heresy of paraphrase) (1986, p. 94). "The text itself" became the main field of the New Critical effort to focus their attention

on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting it. The author's

life and times and the spirit of the age in which he or she lived are certainly of interest to the literary historian, New Critics argued, however, they do not provide the literary critic with information that can be used to analyze the text itself (Tyson, 2015, p.130).

This concept assumes that literature must be approached through structure. As an autonomous structure, literary works must be understood intrinsically and apart from historical background and the author's self and intention. American New Criticism is structure-oriented in its totality, more content-oriented, both to the existence of ambiguity and irony, as well as a new study of the Pike and Becker model that seeks to apply linguistics and literature in the context of carrying out literary studies (Aminuddin, 1987, p. 53). Thus, for new criticism, a literary work is most independent and stand-alone (autonomous); therefore, it does not depend on other elements outside of the work itself (Darma, 2004, p. 57).

At first, New Criticism was only applied to poetry, even until now, it is generally still applied to poetry. However, since the 1950s, new criticism has also been applied to prose (Darma, 2004, p. 55). Since new criticism views the literary text as a system, a unified structure, and thus as a system/structure, literary works are built by components of literary texts that are interrelated to create a form of meaning. Moreover, new critics focus on the intrinsic elements of literary works without paying attention to the extrinsic elements.

Wellek (1977, p. 112) states that literary analysis must be concerned with the intrinsic aspect. In line with this opinion, Culler (1977:127) says that literary

works are autonomous, which means that external aspects outside the literary work do not determine it. Therefore, based on new criticism, literary work will be analyzed by requiring the formal element. The formal elements are plot, which is the description of various events of the central of the story; setting refers to the story's time, place, and atmosphere; theme as the story's main idea; point of view; character and characterization.

The new criticism is used to explore Nora's character in order to find the way she faces and overcomes her problems. Since the researcher uses this theory to reveal Nora's characterization, thus the character and characterization's elements be explained more deeply than other formal elements.

## **2.2 Formal Element of Novel**

Formal element of novel consists of theme, moral value, point of view, setting, character and characterization. In this study, the researcher only uses the character and characterization to analyze the main character's action. Therefore, the character and the characterization will be explained briefly below.

### **2.2.1 Character**

According to Forster in *Aspects of the Novel*, characters are all individuals contained in a work. Individuals here are not only limited to humans but also animals (1955, p. 43). In comparison, Stanton (in Nurgiyantoro, 2002, p. 165) explains that the use of the term "character" itself in various English literature suggests two different meanings; first, as the characters in the story that are

shown; second, as the attitudes, interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles/

possessed by these characters. Nurgiyantoro defines character as a people shown in a literary work, both narrative and drama, which the reader interprets as having certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action (2010, p. 166). Thus, characters in literary work, especially novels, are very influential in describing a story or situation.

Nurgiyantoro in his book entitled *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* divides characters into four types, such as:

#### 1. Main Character vs Peripheral Character

Regarding the role or level of importance of characters in a story, some characters are classified as important and will be displayed continuously so that it seems to dominate most of the story. Conversely, some characters only appear once or a few times in the story, which may also be in a relatively short portion of the story. The first character mentioned is the main character of the story (central character), while the second is an additional character (peripheral character) (2002, p 176). He also asserts that, “The main character is the one whose synopsis is made, namely in the activity of making the synopsis, while the additional characters are usually ignored” (2002, p. 177).

#### 2. Protagonist Character vs Antagonist Character

Based on the function of appearance, character was divided into protagonist and antagonist. Altenbernd & Lewis (in Nurgiyantoro, 2002, p. 178) explain, “the protagonist is a character we admire - which know as a hero- a

character who is the embodiment of norms, values, which are ideal for us". While Nurgiyantoro defines the antagonist character as the cause of conflict in the story.

A fiction must contain conflict, tension, especially the conflict and tension experienced by the protagonist. The character who causes conflict is called the antagonist. The antagonist, perhaps it can be called, is in opposition to the protagonist, directly or indirectly, physically or mentally (Nurgiyantoro, 2002, p. 179)

### 3. Flat Character vs Round Character

A flat character is a character that only has one quality/character. As a character, they are not exposed to the various possible sides of their life.

Therefore, it does not have the nature and behavior that can surprise the reader. A simple/flat character's nature and behavior are monotonous, only reflecting one particular character (2002, p. 182). That makes readers recognize and remember them easily afterward (Foster, 1927, p. 69).

Abrams (in Nurgiyantoro, 2002, p. 184) explains that, unlike flat characters, round characters are exposed to various possible sides of their life, personality, and identity. They may have specific identifiable characteristics but also can display various kinds of character and behavior, even contradictory and unpredictable. Therefore, their character is generally difficult to describe precisely. Nevertheless, compared to simple characters, round characters are more like real human life, because they have various possible attitudes, actions and often give surprises.

### 4. Static Character and Developing Character

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Static characters are characters who essentially do not experience changes or development in their character due to events that occur. This type of character appears to be less involved and unaffected by environmental changes due to human relationships. Therefore, static characters have attitudes and characters that are relatively fixed, and undeveloped from the beginning to the end of the story. While, developing characters are a character who experience changes and development of character in line with the development of events and plots told. They actively interact with their environment and others, so that it will affect their attitude, character, and behavior (2002, p. 188).

### **2.2.2 Characterization**

Character in the novel is always alongside their characters/attitude. For example, if a character named A is mentioned in a story. To find the characters of A, data must be collected, either in the form of direct, or indirect focalization, or behavior related to the character, so that complex information will be obtained about character A.

Thus, the term "characterization" has a broader meaning than "the figure character" and their "characters" because it also includes the problem of who the character is, how the character is, and how to place and describe it in a story so that it can provide a clear picture to the reader (Nurgiyantoro, 2002, p. 166). This is what Luxemburg, et al. say in Introduction to Literature (1989, p. 70) that finding out the character's characterization or character can be done in several ways, such as how the character speaks, what they say, how they behave, and how

other characters describe themselves. According to Minderop (2005: 3), the characterization of characters can be studied by five methods; direct method (telling), indirect method (showing), method of point of view, method of studying the stream of consciousness, and figurative language study method.

#### 1. Direct Method (Telling)

This method exposes the characters directly by the author. Minderop divides this characterization method into characterization through the use of names, characterization through appearance, and characterization by the author.

The name of a character in a literary work is often used to give, clarify, and sharpen character traits. The characters are given names that describe the characteristics that distinguish them from other characters. In addition, the appearance factor of the characters also plays an important role to the characterization study. The character's appearance refers to what clothes he/she wears or how he/she expresses themselves. The details of appearances show the reader about the characters' age, physical condition/health and even prosperity level. While, characterization through the author's speech provides broad freedom for the author in determining their story. The author does not only bring the reader's attention to their comments about the character's characterization, but also tries to shape the reader's perception of the character they tell (Minderop, 2010, p. 79).

#### 2. Indirect Method (Showing)

The author displays the characterization of their character through dialogue and action of characters. Characterization through dialogue are divided into six part;

a. Characterization through Dialogue

- What the character says

Pickering and Hooper (in Minderop, 2011, p. 23) state that the reader should pay attention to the substance of dialogue, whether the dialogue is important to develop events in a plot or vice versa. For example, when the character always talks about himself, he can be characterized as self-centered.

- Speaker Identity

According to Minderop (2011, p. 25) the identity of the speaker is the speech conveyed by a protagonist (central character), which should be considered more important than what is said by the innate character (minor character). However, the conversation of minor characters often provides hidden crucial information about the characterization of other characters.

b. Location and Situation of Conversation

Where the conversation takes place and when the conversation happened can be considered as important things that should be analyzed. Conversations that take place in private on occasion at night are usually more serious than conversations that take place in public during the day. Besides, conversing in the family sitting room is usually more significant than talking on the street or in the theater.

c. The Identity of the Character Aimed by the Speaker

According to Minderop (2011, p. 31) the speaker here means the speech conveyed by the character in the story. It means the speech spoken by certain characters about other characters.

d. Mental Quality of the Characters

According to Pickering & Hoepfer (in Minderop, 2011, p. 33), mental qualities of the characters can be recognized through the strains and flow of speech when conversing. For example, the characters involved in a lively discussion indicate that they have an open-minded mental attitude. On the other hand, some characters like to give opinions or close-minded or characters who are full of secrets and hide something.

e. Tone, Stress, Dialect, and Vocabulary

- The tone of voice, even if expressed explicitly or implicitly, can give a picture to the reader of the character's characterization. Likewise, it can portray the character's attitude when talking with other characters (Pickering & Hoepfer in Minderop, 2011, p. 34).
- Stress voice provides an important picture of the character because it shows the authenticity of the character's character and can even reflect the education, profession, and class where the character comes from (Pickering and Hoepfer in Minderop, 2011, p. 36).
- Dialects and vocabulary can provide important facts about a character because they both show the authenticity of the character's characterization

and can even reveal the character's education, profession and social status (Pickering and Hoeper in Minderop, 2011, p. 36-37).

f. Characterization through the Actions of the Characters

The reader needs to observe the various events deeply in the plot because these events can reflect the character's characterization, the emotional and psychological conditions that follow it, and the values displayed (Pickering and Hoeper in Minderop, 2011, p. 38)

### 2.3 Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is a term in literary psychology observations discovered by Freud around the 1890s. Then, in the 1900s, it became a field of study.

Psychoanalysis is one of psychology's fields that is considered one of the revolutionary movements in the field of science until now.

In Freud's concept, humans are considered to have psychic energy that drives them to behave, and it is dynamic. He mentions that the energy consists of the id (located in the unconscious), ego (located between the conscious and unconscious), and superego (located partly in the conscious and partly in the unconscious). This concept is called psychoanalytic theory (Minderop, 2010, p. 31).

Psychoanalytic theory is concerned with the role and development of human psychology. This study is part of psychology that has made a significant contribution to human psychology (Minderop, 2016, p. 11). The psychoanalytic

theory introduced by Sigmund Freud turned out to be the most widely referred to <http://digilib.uinsa.ac.id/> <http://digilib.uinsa.ac.id/> <http://digilib.uinsa.ac.id/>

in the psychological approach or the most dominant in analyzing literary works. Although Freud was a doctor who always thought scientifically, the world of literature was familiar to him because he received literary education and studied it seriously during his youth (Minderop, 2010, p. 11)

Sigmund Freud's Personality Theory views personality as a structure consisting of three systems; the id, ego, and superego, which work together to create human behaviour. By adopting Sigmund Freud's personality theory known as psychoanalytic theory, the researcher uses it to explore Nora's action as the main character in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. The following is a brief description of Sigmund Freud's theory of personality.

#### 1. Id

The id (in Freud's terms: das es) is a personality system that the most basic in which there are innate instincts. The id lies in the unconscious part. It is a place of primitive impulses, namely impulses that have not been formed or influenced by culture (experience), namely the urge to live and maintain life (life instinct), and the urge to die (death instinct) (Saleh, 2018, p. 162). The id is a psychic energy and instinct that drives humans to provide basic needs such as food, sex, and resist pain or discomfort (Minderop, 2016, p.21). The id has no contact with the real world but always tries to reduce tension by satisfying basic desires. It is because the only function of the id is to obtain satisfaction, so it can be called 'the pleasure principle' (Feist & Feist, 2010, p.32). Feist concludes that the id is a primitive, chaotic, and unreachable realm of the conscious mind. It is

unchangeable, immoral, illogical, unruly and full of energy that comes from basic impulses devoted solely to satisfying the pleasure principle.

Since Id contains basic desires in the unconsciousness part, the concept of Id here aims to explain Nora's biological desire that she never shows or expresses to the world. Her actual desire is to live. However, she does not know how to live perfectly. So she tries to fit herself into her life by doing what other people want.

## 2. Ego

This term is derived from the word *das Ich* (I), translated as Ego. The ego is the only area of the mind that has contact with reality. The ego develops from the id in infancy and becomes the only source to contact with the outside world. The reality principle controls the ego, which seeks to replace the id's pleasure principle (Feist & Feist, 2010, p. 33). Saleh states that the ego is a system in which id and superego impulses collide. The function of ego is to maintain a balance between the other two systems, so that not too many impulses from the id are raised to consciousness, otherwise not all superego impulses are fulfilled (2018, p. 163). In short, ego is constantly trying to control the blind and irrational demands of id and superego with the demands of reality from the outside world (Feist & Feist, 2010, p. 33).

The ego lies between the conscious and the subconscious. The ego's job is to give access to spiritual roles, such as problem-solving, decision making and reasoning. For this reason, the ego is the main leader in personality; it is like an

industry leader who is able to make rational decisions for the sake of business

progress. However, the id and ego do not have morality because they do not know good and bad values (Minderop, 2016, p. 22).

In *The Midnight Library*, Nora experiences various unpleasant events, such as losing her cat, being fired from her jobs, and being avoided by her brother. As a result, she feels useless and decides to take her own life. Therefore, The function of ego in this research is to explain Nora's action in taking her own life, which causes by her feeling of not being accepted and understood.

### 3. Superego

This term is derived from the word *das Uber-Ich* (over-I), known now as superego. Superego represents the moral and ideal aspects of personality and moralistic and idealistic principles govern it as opposed to the pleasure principle of the id and the realistic principle of the ego (Feist & Feist, 2010, p. 34). The superego is formed from the process of internalizing the foreign prohibitions and orders that individuals encounter, which in the end will be ascribed to them.

Feist & Feist explain that the superego has two subsystems, the conscience and the ego-ideal. The conscience is born from experiences of punishment for inappropriate behaviour and teaching us about what should not be done. In contrast, ego ideals develop from experiences of getting rewarded for appropriate behaviour and directing us towards things that should be done.

Freud (in Feist & Feist, 2010, p. 34) underlines that a good superego will control sexual and aggressive urges through a process of repression. However, the

superego does not exercise repression but commands the ego to do so. The

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superego observes the ego closely, assessing its actions and goals. Guilt occurs when the ego acts or even intends to act contrary to the moral norms of the superego. Feelings of inferiority (inferiority) will arise when the ego cannot meet the norms of superego perfection, feelings of guilt are a function of conscience, while the ego-ideal causes feelings of inferiority.

The superego is the moral element of personality that is related to good and bad, right and wrong in societal standards or norms. Individuals have received training or information about good and bad behaviour through life experiences, especially at the age of children. As a result, individuals internalize different social norms or certain moral principles, then demand them to live following these norms. The superego develops around the age of 3 to 5 years. At the age of 3 to 5 years, children learn to receive rewards and avoid punishment by directing their behaviour under the requirements or wishes of their parents (Rosmila, 2020: 335).

Nora always views her life and herself in a bad way. For example, she always convinces herself that she is useless because nobody needs her. Since the superego is related to good and bad, right and wrong in societal standards or norms, the concept of superego here aims to understand Nora's consciousness about her value within her life. Thus, she can recover and discover her view of her life and herself.

## 2.4 Review Related of Study

*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig has been extensively being analyzed in recent years. Numerous studies have used *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig <http://digilib.uinsa.ac.id/> <http://digilib.uinsa.ac.id/> <http://digilib.uinsa.ac.id/>

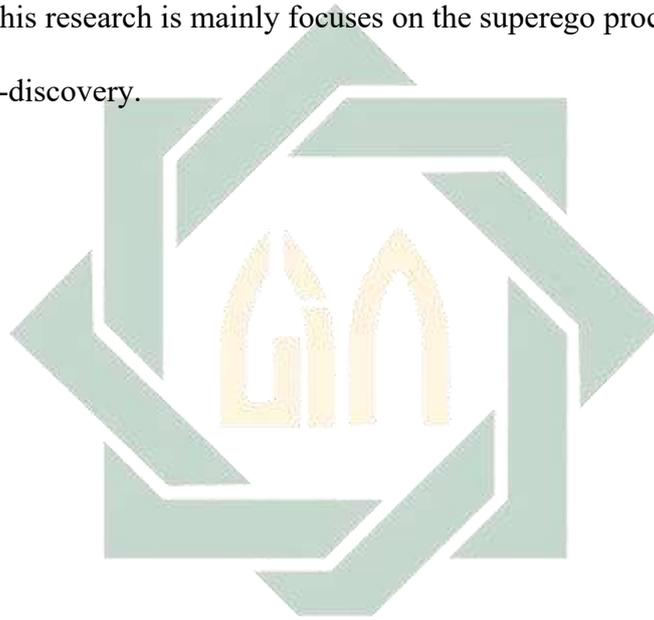
as the object. First, there is Zevania Veda Sarasvati as an English department's student in Darma Persada University. Her thesis entitled *The reflection of guilty feeling through Nora Seed character* (2021) contain analysis of the guilty feeling of Nora's character through the characterization, setting, and plot of the story. This thesis uncovers the guilty feeling of Nora is caused by neurotic behaviour, subjective guilt and the wished to do something differently.

The second is Inka Zahwa Sabrina who also students of English department. Her thesis entitled *Self-Efficacy Development of Nora Seed* (2022). She examined how the development of Nora's self-efficacy will affect Nora's behaviour, using Albert Bandura's Self-efficacy theory and supported by new criticism theory. The result shows that there are three sources give an impact on the development of Nora's self-efficacy. They are receiving support from other people, experiencing a successful life that she can't have in her root life, and successfully managing negative emotions.

The last study is Amy Mastura Madjid, an English departement's students from Jakarta State University (2021). Her study entitled *Earned Secure Attachment of Avoidant Personality Disorder Client* discuss Nora's earned secure attachment as an avoidant personality disorder individual using Millon's concept of AvPD, Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, Erikson's stages of psychosocial development, and Pearson's theory of attachment.

Despite the previous studies also dealing with Nora as the main object study, none has been done studying the way Nora discover herself. Most of the previous studies are uncover the causes of Nora's psychology health which is

Nora's guilty, and Nora's earned secure attachment. One of the previous studies discuss self-efficacy as the causes of Nora's behaviour development. However, the way Nora discover herself is caused by her superego has not been discuss yet. Therefore, this research is mainly focuses on the superego process which causes Nora's self -discovery.



UIN SUNAN AMPEL  
S U R A B A Y A

## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

This chapter presents the discussion as an attempt to answer the research question mentioned in chapter one. First, it is about the explanation Nora's characterization that influences Nora's way of discovering herself. The next is the explanation of how Nora heals herself to discover her true self.

#### **3.1 Nora's Characterization in *The Midnight Library***

In this section, the researcher presents Nora's characterization as the main character through the narrative and dialog of the novel. The novel focuses on Nora as the main character. Nora, as the main character, is also depicted as a round character. It is because she has many characterizations from the beginning until the end of novel. The novel reveals the shift of Nora's characters, personalities, and behaviors.

##### **3.1.1 A Smart and Talented Person**

Since childhood, Nora is described as smart and talented. She is good in both academics and non-academics.

'Coldness and wetness don't always go together,' Nora told her. 'Antarctica is the driest continent on Earth. Technically, it's a desert.' 'Well, that sounds up your street.'

'I don't think it's far enough away.'

'Well, maybe you should be an astronaut. Travel the galaxy.'

Nora smiled. 'The rain is even worse on other planets.'

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‘Worse than Bedfordshire?’

‘On Venus it is pure acid.’

Mrs Elm pulled a paper tissue from her sleeve and delicately blew her nose. ‘See? With a brain like yours you can do anything.’ (p.14)

As in the quotation above, Nora seems to have a broad knowledge.

When she converses with her school librarian about her future, Nora replies to Mrs. Elm with a logical answer. For example, Mrs. Elm said that she hates cold and wet. Nora replies by saying the cold and wet are not always together. She explains it with what she knows. Moreover, it makes her school librarian amazed by her knowledge. Besides, at the end of the dialog, her school librarian dialogue implies that Nora is a smart person by saying Nora’s brain can do anything without worrying about anything.

Besides being smart, Nora also has many talents. For example, Nora is good at swimming. It is not only a hobby for her but more than that.

When she was in adolescence, she won many competitions of swimming.

Moreover, she almost joins the Olympic games as a swimming athlete.

Once upon a time she had been the best fourteen-year-old female swimmer in Bedfordshire. She had won two races in her age category at the National Junior Swimming Championships. Freestyle 400 metres. Freestyle 200 metres (p.76)

Besides swimming, Nora is also good at music. She can sing and play piano well. It is proven when she joins the band called Labyrinths, which was created by his brother, Joe. In the band, she is the vocalist who brings the band to get a contract offer from Universal, a major music production company.

She wasn't in the mood. 'Is this about The Labyrinths? Still?' 'It meant a lot to me. And to your brother. To all of us. We had a deal with Universal. Right. There. Album, singles, tour, promo. We could be Coldplay now.' (p. 25)

Nora is also good at playing piano which later in her thirties, she becomes a piano teacher. Amazingly, she is not joining a course to learn to play it. She only learns and practices it on her own. It shows that Nora is a genius at music. She has a good voice and senses in instruments.

Moreover, she can produce a song on her own.

She taught herself how to play not just Chopin but classics like 'Let It Be' and 'Rainy Days And Mondays'. She also began, before The Labyrinths were even a figment of her brother's imagination, to compose her own music. (p.76)

### 3.1.2 Unsociable person

Since little, Nora's father only allowed Nora to swim. She cannot do whatever she wants. Therefore, she is trained to be a swimmer. At first, Nora swims only for her satisfaction. However, it turns out to be a boomerang for herself. When Nora starts to win many swimming competitions, she becomes known by her surroundings. In school, her friends begin to know her existence. At the same time, Nora does not like to become a center of attention.

As soon as I started winning swimming races, I became seen and I didn't want to be seen. And not only seen but seen in a swimsuit at the exact age you are self-obsessing about your body. Someone said I had boy's shoulders. It was a stupid thing but there were lots of stupid things and you feel them all at that age. As a teenager I'd have happily been invisible. People called me "The Fish". They didn't mean it as a compliment. I was shy. It was one of the reasons

why I preferred the library to the playing field. It seems a small thing, but it really helped, having that space. (p. 88)

Moreover, as a teenager, Nora cares about her body, too. Wearing a swimsuit whenever she competes, her body is exposed openly. So naturally, it makes her friends focus their attention to Nora. They like to talk about Nora that Nora does not like it. She also does not have any freedom again. Because of that, Nora seems to love to be alone as stated in the quotation above. When she becomes famous and be a gossip source in her school, she dislikes it. Therefore, at the end of the narration, she also says that she likes to be in a library because she can be away from other people. She does it to avoid being the center of attention.

Her comfort zone of being alone continues till she grows up and becomes an introverted person. In her adulthood, she only has one close friend, Izzy. It is not that she has difficulties communicating with others, but she is rather not enjoying talking with them. She prefers to avoid any communication, which is characterized by an introvert. Nora being introvert also shows when she works in a band and works as a shopkeeper. She only communicates in terms of her responsibilities for her profession. She tries to minimize talking outside of the work.

She had always hated being watched.

‘Hello,’ she said nervously, into the microphone. ‘It is very nice to be here

today . . .’ A thousand or so faces stared, waiting.

She had never spoken to so many people simultaneously. Even when she had been in *The Labyrinths*, they had never played a gig

for more than a hundred people, and back then she kept the talking between the songs as minimal as possible. Working at String Theory, although she was perfectly okay talking with customers, she rarely spoke up in staff meetings, even though there had never been more than five people in the room. Back at university, while Izzy always breezed through presentations Nora would worry about them for weeks in advance. (p. 110)

### 3.1.3 a Quitter Person

In facing her problems, Nora seems to have difficulty overcoming them. She lost her cat and was fired as a shopkeeper and instrument tutor. She is also being blamed by her ex-bandmate, Ravi, for quitting the band and making the band fail to join a big record label. Unable to cope with the overwhelming events, she decides to end her life. Rather than thinking about the solution, she chooses to solve it by suicide.

She couldn't even manage 'cat owner'. Or 'one-hour-a-week piano tutor'. Or 'human capable of conversation'. The tablets weren't working. She finished the wine. All of it. 'I miss you,' she said into the air, as if the spirits of every person she'd loved were in the room with her. She called her brother and left a voicemail when he didn't pick up. 'I love you, Joe. I just wanted you to know that. there's nothing you could have done. This is about me. Thank you for being my brother. I love you. Bye.' It began to rain again, so she sat there with the blinds open, staring at the drops on the glass. The time was now twenty-two minutes past eleven. She knew only one thing with absolute certainty: she didn't want to reach tomorrow. She stood up. She found a pen and a piece of paper. It was, she decided, a very good time to die (p. 32).

Another situation that shows Nora as a quitter is when she is forced to give up on continuing her wedding with Dan, her fiancé. Before the day of her wedding, her mother dies. Losing her mother, she got depression.

Day by day, she was overwhelmed by the feeling of grief. So instead of

discussing and solving it with Dan, she cancels her wedding plans. It shows how Nora's surrender leads her to solve her problems.

When her mum died three months before the wedding Nora's grief was immense. Though she had suggested that the date should be put back, it somehow never was, and Nora's grief fused with depression and anxiety and the feeling that her life was out of her own control. The wedding seemed such a symptom of this chaotic feeling, that she felt tied to a train track, and the only way she could loosen the ropes and free herself was to pull out of the wedding. (p.47)

Furthermore, Nora as a quitter person also shows in the narration when she assumes the reason why she always gives up on everything. She convinces herself that surrender is a trait that her family passes down.

There was an invisible baton of failure her mother had passed down, and Nora had held it for a long time. Maybe that was why she had given up on so many things. Because she had it written in her DNA that she had to fail. Nora thought of this as the boat chugged through the Arctic waters and gulls – black-legged kittiwakes, according to Ingrid – flew overhead. (p. 99).

Being raised by a family with an awful background makes Nora believe her failures are the DNA of her family. Her father lives his life far more than he expected. Her father's hard work to be a successful athlete should stop because of his injury. Meanwhile, her mother was raised by parents who always fought each other. It makes her mother not believe in a happy marriage. Every awful story of her parents makes Nora realize why she always gives up on what she does. Therefore, she convinces herself that her family's failed DNA causes it.

### 3.1.4 Indecisive

Nora's indecisiveness shows when Nora is easy to be ruled by other

people. This condition happened when Nora was still in a relationship with Dan.

He likes to interfere Nora's decision about her career.

Worse, though, was when an A&R man for a major label (or rather, a boutique former indie label with Universal behind them) wanted to sign The Labyrinths. Dan had told her that it was unlikely they'd survive as a couple. He'd also heard a horror story from one of his university friends who'd been in a band that signed to a label and then the label ripped them off and they'd all become unemployed alcoholics or something. 'I could take you with me,' she said. 'I'd get it in the contract. We could go everywhere together.' 'Sorry, Nora. But that's your dream. It's not mine.' Which hurt even more with hindsight, knowing how much – before the wedding – she'd tried to make his dream of a pub in the Oxfordshire countryside become her dream as well. Dan had always said his concern was for Nora: she'd been having panic attacks while she was in the band, especially when she got anywhere near a stage. But the concern had been at least a little manipulative, now she thought about it (p.63).

As Dan's fiancé, Nora seems easy to let him rule herself. When it comes to her life's decision, Nora believes what her fiancé says. Dan forces Nora to quit the band when the band gets a contract from a big label record by saying it is for Nora's healthiness. The worse is that he told Nora he could be with her if she is not in the band. Nora's indecision lets her to follow what her fiancé wants. She is willing to take the consequences of quitting the band her brother created. She is willing to fight and disappoint her brother.

### **3.2 The Process of Nora's Self Discovery**

In this section, the researcher presents the explanation of the way Nora discover herself. To find out, the researcher reveals three elements of personality which are id, ego, and superego of Nora. Those threes systems

work together to influence human behavior.

### 3.2.1 Nora's Desire To Be Accepted

In the midnight library, Nora is told as a smart and very talented girl. Therefore, people always think that she can do whatever she wants. However, the more she ages, the more she confuses about what kind of life to live. It can be happened because Nora experiences various events that make her feels unaccepted by her closest ones.

Since childhood, Nora is always treated as a mistake by her mother. Once she is a baby, her left ear grows wider and stands out more than the right. Her mother solves it beyond what other people think. Instead take Nora to the doctor to see what happens to her ear, her mother views it as a thing that needs correction. She does Nora's ear with sticky tape and covers it with a wollen bonnet. Therefore, Nora feels her mother does not accepts her.

It was hard not to compare Mrs Elm to her mother, who treated Nora like a mistake in need of correction. For instance, when she was a baby her mother had been so worried Nora's left ear stuck out more than her right that she'd used sticky tape to address the situation, then disguised it beneath a woollen bonnet. (p.14)

Furthermore, there is also a time Nora feels unaccepted by both of her parents. It happens when Nora tries to do anything she feels interested in. Once, she talks about being a glaciologist, but her parents against her wants directly. Moreover, her parents also not proud when Nora becomes

one of the smart students in her school. Her mother only wants Nora to be

by her side forever so that Nora cannot leave her in order to pursue her dreams. While her father only allows Nora to swim. In contrast, her parents allow her brother to do whatever he wants. Even, it is his brother who is expected to be able to do anything, not Nora. Therefore, it makes Nora feels unaccepted by her parents because they view and treat her differently than her brother.

‘You once wanted to be a glaciologist,’ Mrs Elm appeared to remember.

‘Yeah.’

‘You used to talk about it. You said you were interested in the Arctic, so I suggested you become a glaciologist.’

‘I remember. I liked the sound of it straight away. My mum and dad never liked the idea, though.’

‘Why?’

‘I don’t really know. They encouraged swimming. Well, Dad did. But anything that involved academic work, they were funny about.’

Nora felt a deep sadness, down in her stomach. From her arrival into life, she was considered by her parents in a different way to her brother. ‘Other than swimming, Joe was the one expected to pursue things,’ she told Mrs Elm. ‘My mum put me off anything that could take me away. Unlike Dad, she didn’t even push me to swim. (p. 116)

From some quotations and explanations above, it implies Nora’s id.

Want to be accepted is the id of Nora. All the time, Nora experiences unacceptable from her closest ones. For example, when Nora does what her father wants which is to swim. She let her father control her life.

However, Nora becomes overwhelms by the pressure her father gives to her. She is tired of racing in the pool. Thus, she decides to quit swimming.

Knowing Nora's decision, her father is very disappointed, and it affects Nora's relationship with her father which becomes worsens. At first, Nora swims only for her enjoyment. However, it turns out to be a competition, and she still does what her father wants. However, her father does not accept Nora's feelings when she feels tired of the pressures. Therefore, Nora feels sad because her feelings not accepted by her father.

'But you could make a success of your life,' he had said. Yes. She remembered it now. 'You're never going to be a pop star, but this is something real. It's right in front of you. If you keep training, you'll end up at the Olympics. I know it.'

She had been cross with him saying that. As if there was a very thin path to a happy life and it was the path he had decided for her. As if her own agency in her own life was automatically wrong. (p. 90)

Nora's id that wants to be accepted also shows when Nora tries to amaze her brother. By doing the same as her brother does, Nora is eager to learn to play piano so she can make her brother amazed. In addition, by doing the same as her brother, Nora also seeks acceptance from her parents. Unlike Nora who should pursue what her parents wants in order to be accepted by them, her brother does not need any action to be accepted. Therefore, Nora's action in learning to play piano is included as her id.

'I was so stupid, doing that swim, just trying to impress people. I always thought Joe was better than me. I wanted him to like me.'

'Why did you think he was better than you? Because your parents did?'

Nora felt angry at Mrs Elm's directness. But maybe she had a point. 'I always had to do what they wanted me to do in order to impress them. Joe had his issues, obviously. And I didn't really understand those issues until I knew he was gay, but they say sibling rivalry isn't about siblings but parents, and I always felt my parents just

encouraged his dreams a bit more.’ (p.184)

Furthermore, the id of Nora also depicts when she tries to actualize Dan’s dreams to please him. She makes Dan’s dream to live and have a pub in the village become her dream too. In order to be accepted by him, Nora also dares to quit from the Labyrinths because of his demands.

Which hurt even more with hindsight, knowing how much – before the wedding – she’d tried to make his dream of a pub in the Oxfordshire countryside become her dream as well. Dan had always said his concern was for Nora: she’d been having panic attacks while she was in the band, especially when she got anywhere near a stage. But the concern had been at least a little manipulative, now she thought about it. (p. 63)

From childhood until she is in her 35’s, Nora only wants to be accepted by others, especially her loved ones. However, she experiences many rejections from her loved ones, as explained above. Not only that, Nora also feels unaccepted from her environments. It happens when Nora accidentally meets a stranger that knows her. She asks Nora about her present life. She also compares Nora’s past life which being an incredible swimmer with Nora’s live in the present. Knowing that her life is not as her environment’s expected, Nora feels sad and angry. Moreover, the stranger insults Nora by asking her reason for being single in her 35’s.

‘I’m Kerry-Anne. Remember you from school. The swimmer. Super-brain. Didn’t whatshisface, Mr Blandford, do an assembly on you once? Said you were going to end up at the Olympics?’

Nora nodded.

‘So, did you?’

‘I, um, gave it up. Was more into music . . . at the time. Then life happened.’

‘So what do you do now?’

‘I’m . . . between things.’

‘Got anyone, then? Bloke? Kids?’

Nora shook her head. Wishing it would fall off. Her own head. Onto the floor. So she never had to have a conversation with a stranger ever again. (p. 27)

Nora’s id to be accepted also depicts when Nora feels excluded from her brother after she is quitting from The Labyrinths. One time, she accidentally knows that her brother come to her town. However, he does not visit her. He tends to avoid Nora.

Your brother tells a different story.’

This took Nora by surprise. ‘Joe? How do you—’

‘He bought an amp. Marshall DSL40.’

‘When?’

‘Friday.’

‘He was in Bedford?’

‘Unless it was a hologram. Like Tupac.’

He was probably visiting Ravi, Nora thought. Ravi was her brother’s best friend. While Joe had given up the guitar and moved to London, for a crap IT job he hated, Ravi had stuck to Bedford. He played in a covers band now, called Slaughterhouse Four, doing pub gigs around town.

‘Right. That’s interesting.’

Nora was pretty certain her brother knew Friday was her day off. The fact prodded her from inside. (p. 22)

### 3.2.2 Nora’s Ego To Take Her Own Life

Since the id of Nora is wanting to be accepted, Nora tries anything

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to not be excluded from others such as by pleasing other people's wants. However, Nora is overwhelmed by the pressures, hopes, and expectations of either other people and even herself. When she cannot fulfill what other people wants, she feels regret. In the end, all her regret piles up and becomes a time bomb that can explode at any time. Therefore, Nora's ego lets her release all her pain by committing suicide. This is also triggered by various unpleasant accidents that occurs to Nora before she ends her live such as losing her cat, being fired from her jobs, and being blamed by her ex-bandmate and her fiancé for their poor life.

After the wine a realisation hit her with total clarity. She wasn't made for this life. Every move had been a mistake, every decision a disaster, every day a retreat from who she'd imagined she'd be. Swimmer. Musician. Philosopher. Spouse. Traveller. Glaciologist. Happy. Loved. Nothing. She couldn't even manage 'cat owner'. Or 'one-hour-a-week piano tutor'. Or 'human capable of conversation'. The tablets weren't working. She finished the wine. All of it. (p.33)

Nora's decision to end her life by committing suicide does not happen as Nora expected. Instead of dying, Nora is in a coma. In her coma, she feels enters the library that fulfilled with tons of books. It is not an ordinary book, but the books contain a gate to enter the parallel life where she can try many versions of her life she could be. Through that book, Nora visits and tries a life that she wants to be, such as a life where she marries Dan, a life she is being a glaciologist, being a rock star, and an Olympic winner, etc.

### 3.2.3 Nora's Self-Discovery

Nora's decision to suicide makes her superego not let it happen solely. Her superego knows that what she had been done is wrong action. Therefore, her superego attempts to change her view about her life and herself. To make it happen, her superego awakens all the regrets and her desire that she does achieve yet in her life through her imagination/ dream when she is in a coma.

The appearance of Nora superego shows in the condition when she finally regrets for blaming herself. First, when Nora tries a life in which she marries Dan. Before suicide, she always blames herself for canceling her wedding with Dan, which causes Dan's life to mess up. When Nora and Dan still together, he always tells Nora about his dream to build a pub in the countryside and live happily with her. However, after she tries the life she marries Dan, it does not happen as her expectation that she will be happy. In the end, it makes Nora realize how bad and manipulative he is. He never supports Nora's dream. Whenever Nora talks about her band, he does not care about it. Moreover, he brainwashes Nora to leave the band by giving various reasons that he considers it as his worries. After all, the superego of Nora makes her regret for blaming herself for what happened to Dan's life.

This was the life she had been in mourning for. This was the life she had beaten herself up for not living. This was the timeline she thought she had regretted not existing in. (p. 64)

Second, when Nora steps into the life where her cat is still alive. All the time, she always blames herself for her cat's death. She feels incompetent as the owner. However, after she tries a life that she meets her cat again. She finally understands that the cause of her cat dying is not because of her omission as the owner. It is because her cat is sick without her knowing.

‘Well, you don’t see yourself as a bad cat owner any more. You looked after him as well as he could have been looked after.....

Nora tried to take this in. Now she thought about it, there hadn’t been any external signs of damage on her cat’s body. She had just jumped to the same conclusion that Ash had jumped to. at a dead cat on the road was probably dead because of the road. And if a surgeon could think that, a mere layperson would think that too. Two plus two equals car accident.

‘Poor Volts,’ Nora muttered, mournfully. p.72

The quotation above shows that Nora finally does not blame herself for her cat death. Her superego appears to make her realize that she is not useless, but she is competent as the owner of her cat.

The superego of Nora also appears in the condition when Nora is in a risky situation. As Nora steps into a life where she is a glaciologist, she faces a new challenge that she never experiences before. Together with all the researchers and glaciologists doing climate research in the artic pole, Nora is armed with a gun that aims to defend herself when predatory animals attack her. At the end, the possibility of meeting a predatory animal happens to Nora. She meets a polar bear and walrus. Faced with a dangerous situation that could lead to death, Nora realizes that she is not

ready to die.

There was death. Violent, oblivious death, in bear form, staring at her with its black eyes. And she knew then, more than she'd known anything, that she wasn't ready to die. This knowledge grew bigger than fear itself as she stood there, face to face with a polar bear, itself hungry and desperate to exist, and banged the ladle against the saucepan. (p. 131)

After the accidents which meeting the polar bear in the quotation above, Nora's strong desire to die all this time finally disappear. Her superego leads her to realize that she actually wants to live, as quotation below;

She was in shock. But it was a slightly different kind of shock than the others on the dinghy assumed. It wasn't the shock of having been close to death. It was the shock of realising she actually wanted to live. (p.131)

After trying some lives that she regrets not achieving in her life such as marrying Dan, living with Izzy in Australia, and being a glaciologist. Nora's superego drives her to understand that it is useless to feel burdened by her regrets. It is because every choice she regrets in the past will not necessarily turn out the way she wants. For example, marrying Dan that she imagines will end happily, turns out to be a nightmare; living with Izzy in Australia turns out to be Izzy's death; and being a glaciologist to leave the city and live in a quiet place turns out almost eaten by a polar bear.

'Even these bad experiences are serving a purpose, don't you see?'

She saw the regrets she had been living with most of her life were wasted ones.

'Yes.' (p.179)

Nora's superego also arises from the encouragement of Nora's pain after trying a life where The Labyrinths (the band created by her brother, Joe) still exist and become famous. Unfortunately, living a good life becomes a nightmare for Nora. Knowing that her brother dies, Nora finds out that every choice she regrets in the past won't necessarily turn out the way as she wants. In the end, she realizes that every choice leads to different outcomes than her expectations.

The superego of Nora also comes when she realizes that she is not caring for herself. In order to please her id, she forgets herself. All the time, Nora does what other people wants. Even until she is in a midnight library, she still does it, as in the quotation below.

Every life she had tried so far since entering the library had really been someone else's dream. The married life in the pub had been Dan's dream. The trip to Australia had been Izzy's dream, and her regret about not going had been a guilt for her best friend more than a sorrow for herself. The dream of her becoming a swimming champion belonged to her father. And okay, so it was true that she had been interested in the Arctic and being a glaciologist when she was younger, but that had been steered quite significantly by her chats with Mrs Elm herself, back in the school library. And the Labyrinths, well, that had always been her brother's dream. (p.184)

After step in and tries many lives in the midnight library, Nora's superego finally opens her eyes about committing suicide as the wrong action. Her ego is wrong when processing a way to react her id.

She realised that she hadn't tried to end her life because she was miserable, but because she had managed to convince herself that there was no way out of her misery. (p.204)

Furthermore, all the experiences for the temporary amount in the  
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midnight library gives Nora a lesson. Nora discovers her value, potential, and willingness to live again within herself. All the time, Nora always feels useless. Lost her cat, avoided by her brother, fired from her jobs, and even nobody needs her, it leads her to convince herself to be useless. However, after slipping to the midnight library and visiting all the lives where could have been, Nora finds out how worth her root live is.

In this timeline right now, the one where she had studied a Master's at Cambridge, and married Ash and had a baby, she hadn't been in String Theory on the day four years ago when Doreen and Leo came by. In this timeline, Doreen never found a music teacher who was cheap enough, and so Leo never persisted with music for long enough to realise he had a talent. He never sat there, side-by-side with Nora on a Tuesday evening, pursuing a passion that he extended at home, producing his own tunes. (p. 242)

In the quotation above shows Nora realization of her potential. When Nora stays in the life she married with Ash, her neighbor, she discovers that she is not a piano teacher who is tutoring Leo, her student in her root life. In this temporary life, Nora realizes how her choice to be Leo's tutor has a big influence on him. He will not do a criminal action which causes him to enter jail.

Furthermore, Nora also rediscovers her view of her root life. She finally has a new perspective to view her life. She does not need to be an Olympic swimmer, rock star, glaciologist, or anything. It is because she has no thoughts that her life is not worth living anymore. Knowing in her root life that her brother and her best friend are still alive, and she can help others such as working in Theory String and tutoring Leo to play piano, is

enough for Nora.

She might have missed those particular opportunities that led her to become an Olympic swimmer, or a traveller, or a vineyard owner, or a rock star, or a planet-saving glaciologist, or a Cambridge graduate, or a mother, or the million other things, but she was still in some way all those people. They were all her. She could have been all those amazing things, and that wasn't depressing, as she had once thought. Not at all. It was inspiring. Because now she saw the kinds of things she could do when she put herself to work. And that, actually, the life she had been living had its own logic to it. Her brother was alive. Izzy was alive. And she had helped a young boy stay out of trouble. What sometimes feels like a trap is actually just a trick of the mind. She didn't need a vineyard or a Californian sunset to be happy. She didn't even need a large house and the perfect family. She just needed potential. And she was nothing if not potential. She wondered why she had never seen it before. (p. 252)

In the end, Nora learns how to live. It is not doing what other people dreams, such as being a perfect daughter, wife, mother, worker, or human.

However, the purpose of life is to live. Simple as doing what makes us happy. Moreover, life is not purposing to please others or beating ourselves over past decisions to regret.

And yet, everything was different. And it was different because she no longer felt she was there simply to serve the dreams of other people. She no longer felt like she had to find sole fulfilment as some imaginary perfect daughter or sister or partner or wife or mother or employee or anything other than a human being, orbiting her own purpose, and answerable to herself. (p. 268)

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

Nora in *The Midnight Library* is described as the main character that experiences various unpleasant events. She is losing her cat, being fired from her jobs and being avoided by her brother. She feels burdened by all her regrets within herself. Therefore, Nora is depicted as an individual who dislikes her life but turns into someone grateful for her life. It is because she finally discovers her true self at the end of the story. Therefore, Nora is described as a round character.

Nora is a smart and very talented girl. In her school, she is included as a top student. Nora is also characterized as an indecisive person which easy to be ruled by other people. She lets Dan take control of her life which is being a decision-maker. In addition, Nora also depicts as a quitter person. When faces some problems, she is easy to surrender, for example, she fails to maintain her relationship with Dan. After her mother dies, she is filled with grief that makes her depressed. Instead of talking with Dan, she decides to solve her problems by herself, leading her to cancel her wedding plan with Dan.

Furthermore, the last characterization of Nora is being unsociable. Nora is depicted as unsociable because she does not like to be the center of attention. She avoids any attention that she can get by staying away from the crowd and chooses to be alone. She also minimizes any communication that she thinks it is not important to do. Therefore, her characterization of being unsociable influences her action when she faces a problem.

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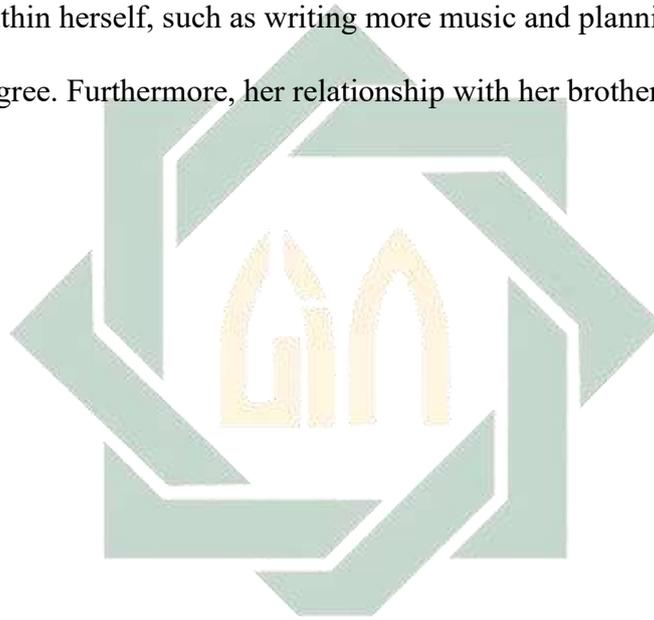
In addition, the way Nora behaves is also affected by the id, ego, and superego. Raised by her mother who often sees Nora as a mistake that needs a correction, and her father who rejects everything that Nora wants, it makes Nora wants her parents accept her true self. Moreover, her desire to be accepted also strengthened when she feels excluded from her brother and her environment. Therefore, being accepted is Nora's id.

Feels unaccepted and excluded from all the loved ones in her life, Nora starts to dislike her life. Nobody needs her anymore thus she feels useless. Therefore, Nora's ego decides to take her own life by committing suicide in order to release all her pains. However, instead die as she wants, Nora is in a coma. Through her coma, she dreams trying all the live she wants.

In her coma, Nora's superego starts to discover the meaning of her life and her true self. Her superego awakens all the regrets and desires that she does not achieve yet in her life through her imagination or dream when she is in a coma after committing suicide, such as marrying Dan, being a superstar, an Olympic swimmer, a glaciologist, etc. All this time, Nora always views her life in a bad way. She always thinks that her life is not worth living.

Moreover, she also convinces herself that nobody needs her because she is useless. After all her experiences in her dreams, she starts to discover how beautiful life is. She realizes that she does not want to die. The way her life fulfills with kindness that she never knew previously, it makes Nora starts to be grateful for her life. Moreover, she also realizes that all humans have uniqueness and each

potential within themselves. Therefore, she does not think of herself as a useless person again. After waking up from the coma, Nora thinks she does not need to be everything to please other people. In addition, she starts to explore all her potential within herself, such as writing more music and planning to take a master's degree. Furthermore, her relationship with her brother also gets better.



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