

**MIA HALL'S STRUGGLE FOR HER LIFE IN GAYLE  
FORMAN'S *IF I STAY***

**THESIS**

**Submitted as Partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree  
of English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic  
University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya**



**By:**

**Lutfi Nur Aisyah**

**Reg. Number: A93214146**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

**ISLAMIC STATE UNIVERSITY SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA**

**2018**

## **Declaration**

The undersigned,

Name : Lutfi Nur Aisyah

Reg. Number : A93214146

Department : English Department

Faculty : Arts and Humanities

This thesis contains materials which have been accepted for the award of Sarjana Degree of English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanity State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. To the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published or written by other person except where due the reference made the text of thesis.

Surabaya, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

Writer,



Lutfi Nur Aisyah

Nim: A93214146

## **Approval Sheet**

Thesis Entitled

**Mia Hall's Struggle for her life in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay***

This thesis has been approved by the advisor to be examined

Surabaya, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Thesis Advisor,



**Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum**

NUP. 201603318

Head of English Department,



**Dr. Mohammad Kurjum, M.Ag**

NIP. 196909251994031002

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

**ISLAMIC STATE UNIVERSITYSUNAN AMPEL**

**SURABAYA**

**2018**

## EXAMINER APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved and accepted by the board of examiners of English Department  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Surabaya, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

### The Board of Examiner:

Head of the Examiner



Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum

NUP. 201603318

Examiner II



Abu Farani, M.Pd.

NIP.196906152007011051

Examiner III



Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum

NIP.197002051999032002

Examiner IV



Abdul Wahab Nafan, MA

NIP. 198002022015031002

Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities



Dr. H. Agus Aditoni, M.Ag.

NIP. 196210021992031001



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA**  
**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA**  
**PERPUSTAKAAN**

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300  
E-Mail: [perpus@uinsby.ac.id](mailto:perpus@uinsby.ac.id)

**LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI**  
**KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

Sebagai sivitas akademika UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Lutfi Nur Aisyah  
NIM : A93214146  
Fakultas/Jurusan : Adab & Humaniora/ Sastra Inggris  
E-mail address : lutfi.aisyah17@gmail.com

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif atas karya ilmiah :

☒ Sekripsi    ☐ Tesis    ☐ Desertasi    ☐ Lain-lain (.....)  
yang berjudul :

Mia Hall's Struggle for Her Life in Gayle Forman's if I Stay

beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya berhak menyimpan, mengalih-media/format-kan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikannya, dan menampilkan/mempublikasikannya di Internet atau media lain secara **fulltext** untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan atau penerbit yang bersangkutan.

Saya bersedia untuk menanggung secara pribadi, tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah saya ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini yang saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya, 08 Agustus 2018

Penulis

(Lutfi Nur Aisyah)

*nama terang dan tanda tangan*



## Abstract

Aisyah, Lutfi Nur 2018. Mia Hall's Struggle for Her Life in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*. Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Arts and Humanities. States Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

The Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum

This thesis discusses Gayle Forman's novel entitled *If I Stay* by using the New Criticism theory focuses on Plot and conflict in the novel, the study on the main character of Mia Hall. This research is qualitative research. This study uses literature study, to analyze by collecting some data such as books, journals and internet references that have relationship with this analysis.

This story that appears from the beginning to the end to narrate all the life she has. Mia's story is about her two lives, before the accident and after the accident. Before the accident, Mia lives in an affectionate family, Mia's life as a high school student, Mia's life as a cellist and also has a romantic relationship with Adam and relates well to her best friend. There conflict that external conflict, external conflict occurred in her relationship and also internal conflict in her journey as a cellist. After the accident, Mia lives in a comatose and is influenced by her subconscious she has an out of body. Mia struggles to stay alive and choose stay alive. There conflicts that internal conflict, internal conflict occurred because the whole family died and the settlement of the conflict is she stays alive to continue the journey of life. The researcher concluded that Mia's choice to stay alive is because the people she loves and more is her dreams of becoming a cellist.

**Key terms:** Struggle, Choice, Life

## Intisari

Aisyah, Lutfi Nur 2018. Mia Hall's Struggle for Her Life in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*. Skripsi. English Department. Faculty of Arts and Humanities. States Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Pembimbing: Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum

Skripsi ini membahas tentang sebuah novel karangan Gayle Forman yang berjudul *If I Stay* dengan menggunakan teori New Criticism berfokus pada alur cerita dan konflik dalam novel, penelitian ini pada tokoh utamanya itu Mia Hall. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan studi kepustakaan, untuk menganalisis dengan cara mengumpulkan beberapa data diantaranya buku-buku, jurnal dan referensi internet yang memiliki hubungan dengan analisis ini.

Dalam cerita yang muncul dari awal hingga akhir untuk menceritakan semua kehidupan yang dia miliki. Kisah Mia adalah tentang dua kehidupannya, sebelum kecelakaan dan setelah kecelakaan. Sebelum kecelakaan, Mia hidup dalam keluarga yang penuh kasih sayang, Mia sebagai siswa disekolahnya, Mia sebagai pemain cello dan juga memiliki hubungan romantic dengan Adam dan berhubungan baik dengan sahabatnya. Adanya konflik, yaitu konflik eksternal. Konflik eksternal terjadi dalam hubungan percintaannya dan juga konflik internal dalam perjalannya segai pemain cello. Setelah kecelakaan, Mia hidup dalam keadaan koma dan dipengaruhi oleh alam bawah sadarnya, jiwanya keluar dari tubuhnya. Mia berjuang untuk tetap hidup dan memilih untuk tetap hidup. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa pilihan Mia untuk tetap hidup adalah karena orang yang dicintainya dan selebihnya adalah untuk impiannya menjadi pemain cello. Adanya konflik, yaitu konflik internal. Konflik internal terjadi seluruh keluarganya meninggal dan penyelesaian konfliknya adalah tetap bertahan hidup untuk melanjutkan perjalanan hidup. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa pilihan Mia untuk tetap hidup adalah karena orang-orang yang dicintainya dan selebihnya adalah untuk mimpinya menjadi pemain cello.

**Kata kunci:** Perjuangan, Pilihan, Hidup

Page .....

Page.....

Page.....

Page.....

Approved Page .....

Approval Sheet .....

ment.....

nts.....

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

xi







## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature cannot be separated from human life due literature and real life both have a reciprocal relationship. Literature is the result of dialogue, contemplation and author reaction to the environment and life (Nurgiyantoro 3). Literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly use to refer to works of the creative imagination. Supporting the previous statement, Wellek and Warren gave the statement that literature is a creative activity, mainly on art (1). Once can also say that literature is “an imaginative writing” in the sense of fiction. Perhaps, it is because there is an argument that “literature is the writing which is not literally true” (Knickerbocker and Reninger 4).

Fiction is one of literary genres that include material that is invented or imagined that is not a record of things as they actually happened. According to DiYanni, there are three major types of literary work, they are: poetry, drama and fiction (7). The fiction can also be divided into the novel, novelette and short story. Kennedy and Gioia also report that two works have dominated modern literary fiction in English: the novel and short story (4).

Dealing with this study, the researcher focuses on analyzing a novel. Novel is normally a prose work with a quite length complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality of value of human experience (Taylor

One of the literary works is a novel entitled *If I Stay*. It is a popular novel, it is young adult fiction that is written by Gayle Forman and published in 2009. The novel follows 17 year old Mia Hall as she deals with the aftermath of a catastrophic car accident involving her family. Mia is the only member of her family to survive, and she finds herself in a coma. Through this coma, however, Mia has an out-of-body experience. Through this, she is able to watch the actions around her, as friends and family gather at the hospital where she is being treated. The readers follow Mia's stories and the unfolding of her life through a series of flashbacks. Mia finds herself stuck between two worlds; the world of the living, and the world of those who have moved on. Mia realizes that she must use her past and her relationships to make a decision for her future. Her options are to stay with her grandparents and the love of her life, Adam, or to move on and avoid the pain of living without her mother, father, and little brother.

Related to the background of study, the write focuses to Mia as the main character in the novel *If I Stay*. In this case, this study formulates the research questions as follow:

- In relation to the problems mentioned above, the objectives of this study are aimed at finding out:

- Theoretically the researcher expects this study will contribute to the development of knowledge in the literary theory that is related to plot and conflict in the novel. The researcher also hopes that the research is able to serve as reference study for English department student in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. For those who have wanted to study life through literature, the researcher expects







## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

This chapter elaborates the theory used to help analyzing Mia's life before and after the accident. This study tries to reveal mostly about the plot and conflict in the novel. The researcher uses new criticism focuses on plot and conflict in the story line.

##### **2.1.1 New Criticism**

New Critics is introduced to American and called "close reading". It has been a standard method of high school and college that used in literary studies for the past several decades (Tyson 135). The New Criticism is an Anglo-American variety of Formalism that emerged in the early decades of the twentieth century and dominated teaching and scholarship until the early 1960s (Castle 122). New criticism is one of the theories that have been used by scholars since long time ago for analyzing literary work. The most important concepts of this theory are concerning the natural and importance of textual evidence (135). It means that it emphasizes on the text as sole evidence which its language that is organized in literary work.

New Criticism is the main tool in an analysis to reveal the true meaning of a text based on the text itself (Tyson 136). It means that New Criticism does not need the author's background and intention or the reader response to get the meaning of the text. Because it is based on the text itself, New Criticism's main



(165). Gill stated that this makes it clear that a plot is literary: that is to say, it is something that is made by the author arranging the events in particular order (165). However, there are some conditions that the author does not bring any important information to build a plot. For the important one, it will bring some conflicts that have to be faced by the character of the story so that the other plot will arrange appropriately with the order. It will begin with an exposition that provides background information of the story including the setting and the character. Then, the story will continue into the rising action which it has a development information. The rising action then will lead the story into the climax and will pass the next step which is called as the falling action until it ends in the resolution of the end in the story.

### **b. Conflict**

When a human fails to get capacity to satisfy most of his need, it makes conflict in their life. The nature of the conflict within the plot can arise from different sources. The basic conflict may be that occurs within the main character, called person against self (Brown and Tomlinson 26). Conflict is one of the important elements in the story. Without it, the story in the literary works will be not interesting, flat, and meaningless. Conflict usually brings into climax of the story in literary work which tries to explore feeling, thought or portrait of life based on the author.

Conflict is the universal problems of every human being as long as they are still alive. It has become process happening in our life involving our self, other people or group of people which have impact. Conflict is a necessary element in a

Conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot. It means that two different sides that are opposed against each other bring about conflict (Holman 48). Conflict is very important in a story because it implies the existence of some motivation for the characters to be in opposition or same goals to be archived thereby

Conflict in personal usually happens between two characters or one character with another character. As Bartos and Wher say that conflict is defined as a situation in which the actor uses behavioral conflict with each other to achieve goals that are incompatible or to express their hostility and this situation not only for individuals but also groups (13). The conflict is the opposition between two characters, between large group of people, or between protagonist and larger parts such as natural objects, ideas, modes of behavior, public opinion, and the like. However, conflict here is not always involved fighting or some overt fight because there are some conflicts are “latent” and not involve overt fighting.

Conflict generally is divided into two types; they are the internal conflict and the external conflict. Internal conflict is the condition facing the character within her/his character and also giving the impact to the character. Internal





The second is Roksidatul Amillia (2016), a student of Sunan Ampel University Surabaya. Her Thesis is *The Struggle of Elijah as the Prophet Shown in Paulo Coelho's the Fifth Mountain*. In the thesis, she tells about the study of the struggle found in Paulo Coelho's novel *The Fifth Mountain*. The thesis focuses on Elijah as one of the character in the novel. The purpose is to illustrate Elijah's character, pointing to Elijah's struggle to achieve self-actualization and to illustrate the impact of Elijah's struggle through his story in the novel.

The third is Nur Novelinda Sari (2016, a student of Sunan Ampel University Surabaya. Her thesis is *A Study of Character Development Portrayed in Diana Palmer's Coltrain's Proposal*. In her thesis, she talks about *The Coltrain's Proposal* novel that tells deeply the life of Coltrain and Loise which is between love and hate relationship. They are young doctors working at Jacobsville hospital, they also have the same feelings. However, on the other hand they are like enemies. The thesis focuses on characterization analysis of Coltrain and Louise, and also how the problems are going on between them. The thesis uses New Criticism theory.



Mia's life is just like an ordinary teenage. She wants to complete her education and spends part of her time as a cellist because it was her talent since she was 10 years old. However, Mia's happy life with her family is now beginning to change when she learns about love. Often gets a greeting from Adam, Mia starts to feel curious about him and then Mia meets Adam for the first time.

“Have you ever heard of this Yo-Yo Ma dude?” Adam asked me. It was the spring of my sophomore year, which was his junior year. By then, Adam had been watching me practice in the music wing for several months. Our school was public, but one of those progressive ones that always got written up in national magazines because of its emphasis on the arts. We did get a lot of free periods to paint in the studio or practice music. I spent mine in the soundproof booths of the music wing. Adam was there a lot, too, playing guitar. Not the electric guitar he played in his band. Just acoustic melodies (Forman 38).

One day, when Mia met Adam and he said "have you ever heard of this Yo-Yo Ma?" Everyone has heard of Yo-Yo Ma Mia's reply, there was a small conversation between them.

“I don’t think you’ll find five people out there who’ve heard of Yo-Yo Ma. And by the way, what kind of name is that? Is it ghetto or something? Yo Mama?” “It’s Chinese.” Adam shook his head and laughed. “I know plenty of Chinese people. They have names like Wei Chin. Or Lee something. Not Yo-Yo Ma” (Forman 38-39).

Starting from the words Yo-Yo Ma, their relationship began to develop.

The relationship is getting closer, but Mia takes a few months to convince herself

Initially Mia tries to ignore anything that bothered her, one of whom Adam. "How could a rock star like Adam be interested in me?" Mia said. Adam is a senior at her school, a one year above her. At first Adam greeted Mia and then got acquainted. His attention makes Mia baffled. At that moment the happiness of love has never been felt by Mia in her life.

Their relationship continued as Adam offered concert tickets to Mia to take Yo-Yo Ma's concert at to Arlene Schnitzer Hall. Without thinking long Mia agreed Adam's invitation, because Mia wants to watch while the ticket is expensive.

Initially, Mia felt that the feeling gave her happiness every time, she spent time

with Adam but the expression of feelings became a fear for her. Mia and Adam becomes close to each other, by starting with a date to watch a music concert of Yo-Yo Ma at Arlene Schnitzer Hall in Portland.

It wasn't Adam making me nervous. I'd grown comfortable enough around him by now. It was the uncertainty. What was this, exactly? A date? A friendly favor? An act of charity? I didn't like being on soft ground any more than I liked fumbling my way through a new movement. That's why I practiced so much, so I could rush myself on solid ground and then work out the details from there (Forman 41).

Before leaving for the concert of Yo-Yo Ma, Mia was nervous not because of Adam, but of her feeling and uncertainty of their relationship. Mia says in her heart "Is this really a" dating friend of kindness "or a charity? Mia does not like in uncertainty. In addition, Mia says the other as well "but he's the first guy to ask me out on a date". Mia has a lot of questions in her mind, until finally Mia chose to live it first without thinking of uncertain things.

“Yeah, but he’s just the first guy I’ve ever gone on a maybe-date with,” I said. “So I don’t know whether to wear date clothes or symphony clothes—do people here even dress up for that kind of thing? Or should I just keep it casual, in case it’s not a date?” (Forman 42).

Adam is the first guy to approach Mia. At first she ignores greetings and basic baseball chats with Adam, because Mia thought it was just an ordinary introduction. However, their closeness is increasing and they are in a relationship like any other youngster.

We drove to Portland, making small talk. Adam played me snippets of bands he liked, a Swedish pop trio that sounded monotonous but then some Icelandic art band that was quite beautiful. We got a little lost downtown and made it to the concert hall with only a few minutes to spare (Forman 43).

They were about to leave for Yo-Yo Ma's concert, Adam picked Mia up.

Then, when Yo-Yo Ma played “Le Grand Tango,” Adam reached over and grasped my hand. In any other context, this would have been cheesy, the old yawn-and-cop-a-feel move. But Adam wasn’t looking at me. His eyes were closed and he was swaying slightly in his seat. He was lost in the music, too. I squeezed his hand back and we sat there like that for the rest of the concert (Forman 44).

When the concert began Mia stole a glance at Adam out of her eye. Then when Yo-Yo Ma played Le Grand Tango, Adam suddenly grabbed Mia's hand with eyes closed and enjoyed the music and Mia clasped Adam's hand. They enjoyed the music and they were both immersed in the music symphony played by Yo-Yo Ma.

The story of Mia and Adam begins after Yo-Yo Ma's concert. Mia realizes that she has fallen in love with Adam and so does Adam.

Adam invited me to see his band play. This was even worse than school. If I felt like a fish out of water in my family, I felt like a fish on Mars in Adam's circle. He was always surrounded by funky, lively people, by cute girls with dyed hair and piercings, by aloof guys who perked up when Adam rock talked with them. I couldn't do the groupie thing. And I didn't know how to rock-talk at all. It was a language I should've understood, being both a musician and Dad's daughter, but I didn't. It was like how Mandarin speakers can sort of understand Cantonese but not really, even though non-Chinese people assume all Chinese can communicate with one another, even though Mandarin and Cantonese are actually different (Forman 62-63).

[illegible]



Their relationship is not just for having fun. Mia's parents invited Adam for dinner. It then is first time Adam meets Mia's family.

Not only had a relationship with Adam, but Mia had been friendship with Kim since they were in Junior high school. That friendship is not in deliberate. Initially they are always paired in all activities in school. The more often together make them both close to each other and eventually make friends.

Immediately we got shoved together for everything. On Kim's third day of school, she was the only person to volunteer to be a team captain during a soccer match in PE, which I'd thought was beyond suck-uppy of her

(Forman 76).

Meanwhile Kim is Mia's friend. Because they are too much like, everyone thinks Mia and Kim are best friends. Indeed they are friends since junior high school. They are both often considered as twin siblings separate from birth. Mia and Kim are always paired in all activities at school. At first Kim volunteered to be the captain of a football game in the sport, and then the English teacher paired them up for an oral discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* book.

Mia's life runs like a life in general. Mia spends time with family, friends and boyfriends. Mia's activities are the same as any other teenager. Mia enjoys parties, music concerts, dating with boyfriend and hanging out with her best friend.

A week before Halloween of my junior year, Adam showed up at my door triumphant. He was holding a dress bag and wearing a shit eating grin (Forman 97).

“Ahh, I’m not much of a costume girl.” Adam rolled his eyes. “Well, become one. It’s Halloween, our first one together. Shooting Star has a big show that night. It’s a costume concert, and you promised to go.” Inwardly, I groaned. After six months with Adam, I had just gotten used to us being the odd couple at school—people called us Groovy and the Geek. And I was starting to become more comfortable with Adam’s band mates, and had even learned a few words of rock talk. I could hold my own now when Adam took me to the House of Rock, the rambling house near the college where the rest of the band all lived (Forman 100).

On Halloween, Adam asked Mia to the party with him. Mia did not want to go because she didn't like wearing a costume but Adam convinced Mia to come because this is the first party of their dating. Eventually they both attended the Halloween party and after the party was over as usual Adam took Mia to the house of rock. Meanwhile Mia has gotten used to it and started to be comfortable with Adam's band mates. Mia also learned a lot about rock vocabulary. That's All is

And maybe this was why even though Adam willingly submitted to Schubert symphonies and attended any recital I gave, bringing me stargazer lilies, my favorite flower, I'd still rather have gone to the dentist than to one of his shows. Which was so churlish of me. I thought of what Mom sometimes said to me when I was feeling insecure: "Fake it till you make it." By the time I finished playing the piece three times over, I decided that not only would I go to his show, but for once I'd make as much of an effort to understand his world as he did mine (Forman 103).

The difference between Mia and Adam is evident in the kind of music they love, but Adam tries to accept the music world that Mia likes. Even Adam listened to Schubert's symphony and always attended the Mia recital by bringing Mia's favorite stargazer lilies. Therefore, this time Mia decide to will try to understand the world of rock music that Adam likes as Adam tries to understand about the music world that Mia likes.

Initially the conflict between Mia and Adam began to happen, differences of opinion and Mia felt unsuited to rock music. As time goes, her relationship with Adam does run quite not well and they both have severed the relationship. It is probably because of the differences that made Mia and Adam fall into disagreement and make their relationship stretchable. Furthermore, they broke up but they still greeted each other and met. However the conversation between them became so polite and using formal conversation that was not as usual as before.

It didn't start out so smoothly with Adam and me. I think I had this notion that love conquers all (Forman 61). We probably would've broken up in those early weeks were it not for my house (Forman 64).

Mia wanted the relationship between Kim and Adam is also well





Juilliard is the idea from Gran, Mia's grandmother. She wants Mia to continue her music study in Juilliard, because the Juilliard School is one of the best musical schools in New York City.

After a long journey to the cello practice every day, Professor Christie supported Mia to continue to the Juilliard School which is the best music school in New York. Professor Christie thinks Mia deserves and able to get into Juilliard with her talented abilities, while playing the cello.

There is a reason why Gran suggested to Mia to continue her schooling. Besides the talented Mia, Gran is sure Mia can reach her dream and become a professional Cello player. Gran vigorously met Professor Christie to discuss her



Mia's desire and enthusiasm to continue her schooling to music is stronger due to the support of Gran and Professor Christie. Her parents also support her even though Mia knew that Mom and Dad did not want to let her to continue her studies far away. Mia still struggled and tried to be accepted in Juilliard, because she knows that it will support her future. Mia strives to commit and strives to uphold her choice as an option in her life.

Meanwhile Mia's attempt to get to Juilliard begins with her sincerity, she takes the registration form and fills out the forms, prepares the letters of recommendation and prepares the recording by her cell phone, to be collected. Mia deliberately did not tell Adam because Mia is still not sure about the audition.

A few moments later there was a creamy envelope of the Juilliard School. The letter contains an audition invitation for Mia. This means Mia has passed the first stage and will continue to Audition. Mia immediately told Adam and

convinced him to agree.

The auditions were held in San Francisco. Dad had some big conference at the school that week and couldn't get away, and Mom had just started a new job at the travel agency, so Gran volunteered to accompany me (Forman 56).

The auditions were held in San Francisco. Mia's parents were busy so they couldn't accompany her. Because her Dad has to attend a conference at her school and Mom should start her new job at the travel agency. Therefore, Gran offered to accompany Mia for the audition later.

But a week before we were due to leave, Gran tripped over a tree root and sprained her ankle. She had to wear one of those clunky boots and wasn't supposed to walk. Minor panic ensued. I said I could just go by myself—drive, or take the train, and come right back.

It was Gramps who insisted on taking me. We drove down together in his pickup truck. We didn't talk much, which was fine by me because I was so nervous. I kept fingering the Popsicle-stick good luck talisman Teddy had presented me with before we left. "Break an arm," he'd told me (Forman 56).

A week before Mia's departure, Gran had an accident. She tripped over the tree roots and sprained her ankle. Gran must wear thick boots and should not walk. Mia felt panicked and decided to leave alone by driving or taking the train and after the audition she would return home.

However, Gramps insisted on escorting Mia using her pickup truck. There was no chat on the trip because Mia was nervous. Mia tried to calm herself by constantly touching the luck charms of the candle Ice handle that Teddy had given her before they left.

Arriving in San Francisco, Mia enters the audition hall. In the audition, there are five numbers to be played including Concerto Shostakovich, Suites Bach, all Tchaikovsky's Pezzo capriccioso and a movement from Ennio Morricone's the

The audition is finished. Mia stepped out with her legs limp and sweating. But Mia feels great and happy, because her audition is over.

When we got back home, Gramps dropped me off and enveloped me in a hug. Normally, he was a handshaker, maybe a back-patter on really special occasions. His hug was strong and tight, and I knew it was his way of telling me that he'd had a wonderful time (Forman 57-58).

Something had happened to my playing in that audition; I had broken through some invisible barrier and could finally play the pieces like I heard them being played in my head, and the result had been something transcendent: the mental and physical, the technical and emotional sides of my abilities all finally blending. Then, on the drive home, as Gramps and I were approaching the California-Oregon border, I just had this sudden flash—a vision of me lugging a cello through New York City. And it was like I knew, and that certainty planted itself in my belly like a warm secret. I'm not the kind of person who's prone to premonitions or overconfidence, so I suspected that there was more to my flash than magical thinking (Forman 215-216).

[illegible]

Furthermore, announcement her audition has not been known. Then Mia told Professor Christie, if after the audition at that time the jury said that “it’s been a long time that Juilliard’s school doesn’t see a girl from Oregon”. However Professor Christie assured Mia if it was a guarantee to be accepted at the Juilliard School. Mia is not one hundred school percent sure it is accepted at Juilliard but that she wants and hopes so.

[illegible]



I spin away. This isn't right. This cannot be happening. We are a family, going on a drive. This isn't real. I must have fallen asleep in the car. No! Stop. Please stop. Please wake up! I scream into the chilly air. It's cold. My breath should smoke. It doesn't. I stare down at my wrist, the one that looks fine, untouched by blood and gore, and I pinch as hard as I can. I don't feel a thing. I have had nightmares before—falling nightmares, playing-a-cello-recital-without knowing-the-music nightmares, breakup-with Adam nightmares—but I have always been able to command myself to open my eyes, to lift my head from the pillow, to halt the horror movie playing behind my closed lids. I try again. Wake up! I scream. Wake up! Wake up wake up wake up! But I can't. I don't (Forman22-23).

[illegible]







Based on the statement above, Mia is the one who determines whether she remains or leaves, doctors just say a matter of medical only. Nevertheless, Mia believes that is the one to decide. However, Mia is afraid of what decision she will take for this, while Mia can't do anything.

Mia found out that Mr. Dunlap is one of the victims of a truck accident along with her car. Mia's feeling of empathy was so deep without thinking of her own. Furthermore Mia figured if he was aware, then healed and out of the hospital. She would visit Mr. Dunlap to release the burden on his shoulder, assuring that this accident is not his fault, because Mia realized that everything happen is pure accident.





Furthermore Mia is still on anxiety, she hopes to rest like her unreacted and Mia feels no power to make a choice. "Do not want to be like this" said Mia, wanting to stay away. Mia began to give up her situation, because there was no enthusiasm from her inside.

Mia wonders if everyone who is dying can choose to stay or leave. It do  
om, her dad and Teddy choose that? They apparently do not seem too.  
ver if they can choose, Mia can't imagine why they chose to leave Mia.

[illegible]

After a few attempts, Finally Adam got permission visit to Mia and it was a long wait for Mia so Adam could visit him.

Adam simply said "please", in which the word was Adam's appeal to Mia, in order to survive and stay alive.

The circumstances experienced by Mia make she remember in her life, if she ever felt disappointed, never felt lonely and anything else ever experienced by human being. Affect Mia and make Mia want to fight back and she tried with full confidence in order to stay alive.

[illegible]

me to wait, so I will. That's the least I can do for him (Forman 246-247).

Mia was so exhausted that she barely managed to blink her eyes. It was only a matter of time and she wondered why she was still putting off something inevitable. However Mia is just waiting for Adam, because before Adam leaves the room, Adam asks to wait for him again.

“Stay.” With that one word, Adam’s voice catches, but he swallows the emotion and pushes forward. “There’s no word for what happened to you. There’s no good side of it. But there is something to live for. And I’m not talking about me. It’s just . . . I don’t know. Maybe I’m talking shit. I know I’m in shock. I know I haven’t digested what happened to your parents, to Teddy . . .” When he says Teddy, his voice cracks and an avalanche of tears tumbles down his face. And I think: I love you (Forman 247-248).

Adam has returned and says only one word "Stay", one word for Mia to keep Mia stay alive. Adam knew it was not easy if Mia's decision was to stay, let alone her parents and sister had died. "But you need to know Mia, if I love you" Adam whispered to Mia.

I hear him take gulp full of air to steady himself. And then he continues: “All I can think about is how fucked up it would be for your life to end here, now. I mean, I know that your life is fucked up no matter what now, forever. And I’m not dumb enough to think that I can undo that, that anyone can. But I can’t wrap my mind around the notion of you not getting old, having kids, going to Juilliard, getting to play that cello in front of a huge audience, so that they can get the chills the way I do every time I see you pick up your bow, every time I see you smile at me (Forman 248).

The statement shows Adam's words to Mia so she does not give up. Adam tried to convince Mia to go on with her life to achieve her dreams. Adam tells the story of Mia's future when she is going to college at Juilliard and becomes a cellist like Mia wants.

“If you stay, I’ll do whatever you want. I’ll quit the band, go with you to New York. But if you need me to go away, I’ll do that, too. I was talking to Liz and she said maybe coming back to your old life would just be too



painful, that maybe it'd be easier for you to erase us. And that would suck, but I'd do it. I can lose you like that if I don't lose you today. I'll let you go. If you stay." (Forman 248-249).

Adam keeps encouraging Mia and if Mia stays alive, Adam will support whatever Mia wants, otherwise Adam will also go to New York with Mia and stop playing the band. Adam also said "if you want me to go even disappear from you I'll go as long as you don't lose yourself today".

But then, it is no longer Adam that I hear. It's that sound, the low moan that in an instant takes flight and turns into something sweet. It's the cello. Adam has placed headphones over my lifeless ears and is laying an iPod down on my chest. He's apologizing, saying that he knows this isn't my favorite but it was the best he could do. He turns up the volume so I can hear the music floating across the morning air. Then he takes my hand. It is Yo-Yo Ma. Playing *Andante con poco e motorubato*. The low piano plays almost as if in warning. In comes the cello, like a heart bleeding. And it's like something inside of me implodes (Forman 249).

After that, it was not Adam heard by Mia, the cello voice played by Yo-Yo Ma who was heard from Adam's paired headphones. Mia heard the music of the cello and the sound of the music affected Mia's body. Again Mia felt that cello music was half of her life and there was a strand of breath from every cello pass to Mia. When the accident happened Mia's subconscious was awakened and one of the causes was due to the sound of cello music on the car radio that was able to awaken Mia's subconscious. Until now cello music influence to Mia feels on her body together and the flow of blood because of the stimulation of the music cello.

The explanation above shows Mia's subconscious influence to awaken her soul, that situation makes she in internal conflict.

Yo-Yo Ma continues to play, and it's like the piano and cello are being poured into my body, the same way that the IV and blood transfusions are. And the memories of my life as it was, and the flashes of it as it might be, are coming so fast and furious. I feel like I can no longer keep up with



them but they keep coming and everything is colliding, until I cannot take it anymore. Until I cannot be like this one second longer (Forman 250-251).

In the meantime the music continues to be played and in Mia's ears, the strains of cello are flowing and reminding Mia of her previous memories of life. The image of the future is pictured in Mia's mind and makes Mia dizzy. However all these shadows affect Mia and seem to be unable to survive again in her current condition.

The internal conflicts Mia's experienced is in the enthusiast of the cello music by Yo-Yo Ma, that she listens to influence her and makes her passion to choose stay alive with the goal of reaching her dream of becoming a cellist. Mia's desire to stronger awaken with all the struggles she sought to get herself back to her body and be able to open her eyes. Suddenly the light and blinding flash glowing white in front of her so she could not see around it.

There is a blinding flash, a pain that rips through me for one searing instant, a silent scream from my broken body. For the first time, I can sense how fully agonizing staying will be. But then I feel Adam's hand. Not sense it, but feel it. I'm not sitting huddled in the chair anymore. I'm lying on my back in the hospital bed, one again with my body (Forman 251).

Mia sees a blinding glow, which brings her life back to her body and this is the first time Mia has felt pain from her body when she lives. Instantly afterwards Mia felt Adam's hand grip for her.

Here, describe the power of Mia's self, which she does so that she can awaken from her comatose. Mia's attempt to fight her subconscious in order to open her eyes from the blinding glow that made her spirit returns to her body.

Internal conflict is the condition facing the character within her character

Mia tried to muster all the rest of the strength from her body to open her eyes and move her limbs. However, Mia felt weakened but Mia's faith is so great because the people who love her and Mia do not want to disappoint them all. Mia tries to gather all her inner strength and focuses, in order to open her eyes. Still there is in Mia's shadow one of them is gripping the bow on the cello.

Then Mia manages to move her finger and instantly squeezes. She felt weak again, tired and Mia was not sure if she managed to do it. Mia can't understand what happened just now, what she did was delivered. But then Adam

grabbed Mia's hand so hard after that Mia felt Adam's hard breath, followed by his voice. This was the first time Mia had heard the voices of the people around her and the first time Mia had opened her eyes.

Finally, Mia's effort to stay alive is a struggle of an individual to surrender on their trust in them with a sense of trust in her faith. Mia believes that everything in her life is hers and that a strong belief can awaken herself from her comatose. Besides her greatest strength is the people whom Mia loved, one of them is Adam.

Gills states that there are many kinds of plots which can affect the relation between the story and other elements of the text such as plots and past events, plots and the aim of the characters, plots based on discoveries, plots based on the workings of society, plots based on mysteries, plots based on problem (173-180).

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

This chapter is the conclusion of the study. This study analyzes of the main characters in the novel *If I Stay*. Mia's has two lives, before the accident and after the accident. Firstly Before the accident, Mia lives in an affectionate family, Mia's life as a high school student, Mia's life as a cellist and also has a romantic relationship with Adam and relates well to her best friend. Beside that Mia's experiencing the conflict, such as external conflict that occurred in her relationship and also internal conflict in her journey as a cellist. So Mia's life before the accident was happy.

Secondly, after the accident Mia's life completely changed her parents and her brother died. She is in a comatose is influenced by her subconscious, and she has an out of body. Mia struggles to stay alive, she has to choose between to stay alive or leave. Mia's choice to stay alive is because the people she loves and more is her dreams of becoming a cellist. And also Mia affected the internal conflict she experienced a dilemma and finally chose to stay alive. There conflict that occurred because the whole family died and the settlement of the conflict is she stays alive to continue the journey of life.

Finally the researcher concluded that Mia conflict happened to the main character is her struggle for survive, namely for the people she loves and the rest about her dream of being a cellist.



- Taylor, Richard. *Understanding the elements of Literature*. London: The Macmillan Press, 1981.
- Tomlinson, Carl and Brown, Carol Lynch. M. *Essential of Children's literature third edition*, United States of America: Boston, 1993.
- Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide Second Edition*. New York: Routledge 2006. Print.
- Sari, Nur Novelinda. *A Study of Character Development Portrayed in Diana Palmer's Coltrain's Proposal*. University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. 2016.
- Wellek, Rene. and Warren, Austin, 1962. *Theory of Literature* (third edition). New York : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, publisher.

