

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

According to the Department of Psychology of The Ohio State University (Osu.Edu n.d) psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Psychologists actively study and understand mental processes, brain functions, and behaviour. When we learn about psychology, psychology can be studied in literary studies, namely the psychology of literature. According to René Wellek and Austin Warren (1949, p. 95) have defined the expression "psychology of literature" as (a) the psychological study of the writer as a type and an individual, (b) the study of the creative process, (c) the study of the types and laws that are present in literary works, and (d) the study of the effects of literature on the readers. All living things must have instincts. Every living creature has a life and death instinct. In literary psychology, Freud explains that instinct is an innate psychological representation of excitation (a state of tension and excitement) due to bodily needs. The instincts found in humans can be divided into eros or life instincts and destructive instincts or death instincts. (Minderop, 2018:26)

Recently, the sense of life and death has been represented in several literary works, such as movies, movie scripts, novels, plays, and so on. One example is the novel. Sumardjo and Saini (1986:29-30) described the novel as large-scale prose. The term "broad" refers to a story with a complex plot (plot), multiple characters, a complex theme, multiple atmospheres, and multiple places. However, the "board"s" range is not absolute; possibly it is only one fictional aspect, such as the topic, while the characters, settings, and others are only one. One of the novels that representing the life and death instinct is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig (2020). So, I will conduct an analysis of this research in relation to the psychology of literature found in literary work. This novel tells the story of Nora Seed's life successively failing, such as her cat dying, being fired from her job, and even failing to marry her lover. Then she felt like a failure and finally, she decided to commit suicide. At midnight, Nora wakes up in the Midnight Library, the library between

life and death. Nora is given the opportunity to repeat the events she regrets in her life and live a completely different life.

I chose this theme because death is something that all humans must deal with and this research can increase the understanding of how humans deal with loss. This work is beautifully packaged by Matt Haig who wants the character's efforts to achieve happiness and the realization of his life choices. Therefore, I chose the topic of life and death instinct of the main character in *The Midnight Library* novel.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, I identify that the main character, Nora Seed's life is filled with regrets and disappointments. Furthermore, Nora Seed experienced internal conflict such as anxiety, and she also experienced external conflicts such as losing her job, losing her favourite cat, and feeling detached from her family and friends. As a result, this novel describes the story of Nora's life journey, in which she is offered the option to live a different life.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, I limit my research on analysing the main character, Nora Seed in *The Midnight Library* novel by using life and death instinct theory by Freud to reveal the life and death instinct of Nora Seed.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem of my research is as follows:

1. How are the life and death instinct portrayed in character and characterization in *The Midnight Library* novel?
2. How are the life and death instinct portrayed in plot in *The Midnight Library* novel?
3. How are the life and death instinct portrayed in setting in *The Midnight Library* novel?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, I intend to show that the theme of this research is the life and death instinct of the character Nora Seed. To achieve this goal, I made the following steps:

1. To analyze life and death instinct portrayed in character and characterization in *The Midnight Library* novel.
2. To analyze life and death instinct portrayed in plot in *The Midnight Library* novel.
3. To analyze life and death instinct portrayed in setting in *The Midnight Library* novel.

1.6. Benefit of the Research

The benefits of the research are as follows:

1. This research can make it easier for students who are interested in taking up research on the psychology of literature.
2. This research is expected to be useful for students in increasing their knowledge about the psychology of literature, which is life and death instinct.

1.7. Systematic Organizations of the Research

The structure of the term paper titled “Life and Death Instinct of The Main Character in *The Midnight Library* Novel by Matt Haig (2020)” is as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the phases of the research layout, such as the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, the objectives of the research, the benefit of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER II

: THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of the experts' theories study which I use in accordance with the title of the research and to analyse the research data, which are as follows: "Characterization", "Plot", "Setting", "Psychology of Literature", "Life Instinct", and "Death Instinct".

CHAPTER III

: RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter includes research methodologies such as study approaches, time and location, data sources, and data analysis technique.

CHAPTER IV

: LIFE AND DEATH INSTINCT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY* NOVEL BY MATT HAIG (2020)

This chapter is the core of the whole research. This chapter consists of an analysis of the research object entitled Life and Death Instinct of The Main Character in *The Midnight Library* Novel by Matt Haig (2020)

CHAPTER V

: CONCLUSION

This chapter is compiled and consists of conclusion and suggestion from the study entitled Life and Death Instinct of The Main Character in *The Midnight Library* Novel by Matt Haig (2020). These chapters are followed by references, scheme of research, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachments.