

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of information pertaining to research. It includes the following: research background, statement of problem, research purpose, research significance, research scope, conceptual framework and previous studies.

1.1 Research Background

In literature, life and death are profound and interconnected themes that transcend the boundaries of individual characters and plots. Life frequently represents vitality, development, and the passage of time in literature. It may be portrayed as a journey, a cycle, or a transient moment to be treasured. Death, on the other hand, represents finality, loss, and the inevitable demise of all living things (Jacobs, J. 1993:VII).

The theme of life and death are explored not only as events in the characters's lives, but also as reflections of the human condition and larger philosophical concerns about existence. Literature explores the intricate story of life and death through symbolism and allegory, providing readers with a lens which to contemplate the nature of mortality, the quest for meaning, and the cyclical patterns of life's many facets. According to Petrilli (2022) these themes resonate profoundly with readers because they elicit profound emotions, challenge beliefs, and encourage reflection on the broader with timeless aspects of human existence.

These theme was also consist in literature work novel *The Midnight Library* that have been chosen as the 2020 Goodreads Choice Award for Fiction is one of the book's most prestigious awards. This esteemed award, chosen by popular vote among Goodreads users, highlights the novel's widespread popularity and resonance with readers. Beyond the physical or digital copies available for purchase and perusing, the book exists. In literary circles, book

societies, and online forums, it has prompted discussions, analyses, and reviews.

The interplay between life and death in *The Midnight Library* novel, particularly the protagonist's proximity to death and the prospect of different outcomes in the afterlife, it allows for a profound examination of how the fear of death and the desire for a better life can shape one's choices, values, and existential outlook. Matt Haig's writing incorporates philosophical reflections on life and death, infusing the narrative with a philosophical depth that offers an abundant source of material for an existential analysis.

The examination of life and death aspirations in literature and philosophy provides significant insights into the intricate dynamics of current society. As long as what Kastenbaum (2018) says that in contemporary society, humans are confronted with a diverse range of existential and ethical inquiries pertaining to the fundamental aspects of human existence, particularly in relation to mortality. The human inclination towards existence, frequently demonstrated through the endeavor to attain individual satisfaction, contentment, and achievement, continues to serve as a prominent motivator within societal contexts. Individuals actively pursue significance and direction in their lives, opting for decisions that harmonize with their personal principles and ambitions.

Consequently, this pursuit occasionally engenders a feeling of haste and apprehension about potentially overlooking valuable opportunities. Conversely, the inclination to confront and comprehend mortality has become increasingly relevant. Topics such as end-of-life care ethical quandaries in the field of medicine, and conversations pertaining to the concept of death with dignity have garnered more attention. Furthermore Borasio (2018) argue that in literature progressively interconnected global society, the discourse surrounding death has expanded to encompass a wide range of viewpoints pertaining to cultural, theological, and ethical deliberations.

This interconnected global society can be symbolize by their own

perception, this perception refers to the author's own mind and in literature there is no specific form to establishment some field. Symbolism in psychoanalysis refers to the use of symbols to represent unconscious thoughts, desires, and emotions. According to psychoanalytic theory by Ewen (2003), the unconscious mind is the primary source of human behavior, and it is often expressed through symbols that are not immediately recognizable to the conscious mind.

These symbols can take many forms, such as dreams, fantasies, and creative works of art. Psychoanalytic theorists believe that symbols are a way for the unconscious mind to communicate with the conscious mind, and that by analyzing these symbols, we can gain insight into the underlying psychological processes that shape human behavior. According to Lurato (2016) symbolism is also seen as a way for the mind to cope with anxiety and other negative emotions, by transforming them into more manageable forms.

Recognizing the importance of this subject, the researcher desires to embark on a scholarly exploration, diving deeply into the dense of symbolism throughout the themes of desire life, and death. The researcher being an intrepid explorer exploring new territory, attempts to unveil the layers of meaning that are hidden inside the folds of literary works, hoping to find the profound insights that lie under in the novel *The Midnight Library*.

There are several studies that use psychoanalysis, especially in identifying the symbolism of the topic in the novel, The difference between the previous studies and this research is the different research objective. The researcher uses the object of the novel '*The Midnight Library*' and the topic is different from previous research. In this research, the researcher uses the psychoanalysis theory to see the symbolism of theme life and death desire in novel *The Midnight Library*.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The main problem of this research is the symbolism of life and death desire of Matt Haig in his novel *The Midnight Library* (2020), the novel explores the symbolism of life and death while prominently emphasizing the theme of desire. However, despite these themes being strongly presented in the narrative, there are aspects that warrant further examination within the context of Matt Haig's work.

Within this context, the problem statement to be addressed in this thesis is as follows:

1. What symbol of life and death desire that represent id, ego, and superego of Matt Haig in *The Midnight Library*?
2. How do the symbol of life and death desire build character development, plot, and mood in *The Midnight Library*?

1.3 Research Purpose

In this study, the authors establish a set of goals aimed at examining and describing the aforementioned problems, with the ultimate objective of providing readers with valuable insights. The objective of this research based on the problem formulation are:

1. To find out what symbol of life and death desire that represent id, ego, and superego of Matt Haig in *The Midnight Library*.
2. To find out how do the symbol of life and death desire build character development, plot, and mood in *The Midnight Library*.

1.4 Research Significance

The author has conducted extensive research on the symbolism of the novel that the theme is life and death desire, which provides the reader with a profound understanding of the novel's context and contributes to ongoing

discussions in contemporary culture and society. The narrative gives a theme of try the several life, which serves as inspiration. This novel demonstrate about although we have a guilty for all of our choices in our life the context of desire to continue it, repeat it, or ended it is still exist in our mind and in the end its all about acceptance how we manage to accept the result of our life choices to living a better life with ourself. The author also anticipates that the investigation into this subject, “Symbolism of life and death desire in Matt Haig’s *The Midnight Library*” will have a number of advantages.

The research significance of a thesis that refers to the importance and relevance of the study in both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to contributing a deeper understanding of how authors tripatite mind used metaphor to symbolize the life and death desire in the novel *The Midnight Library*. This can enrich literary theory by illustrating how narratives can be a powerful tool for depicting how unconscious mind, concious mind, and moral mind is reveal in this study. It helps delve into the ethical dimensions of literature, which can be valuable in ethical discussions within the realm of art and culture. Practically, this research is expected to make a valuable contribution to the academic field of English Literature.

At a practical level, this research has significant implications for increasing metaphora field to the literature. By dissecting how the novel portrays the symbolism of life and death desire trough narrative element, this study can serve as a tool to cultivate understanding about metaphora. Due to a small number of researchers have explored this subject, this study is expected as a future researchers in comprehending how to apply the theory of psychoanalysis to reveal the symbolism of author’s desire in literary works and assess their consequences.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

This research is expected to contributing a depper understanding of how symbolism is a form of indirect representation. Symbolization is a human-specific psychic function in which one mental representation refers to another

based on a tenuous connection (Lurato, 2016). This study uses *The Midnight Library* novel as an object to be analyzed through psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud. Sigmund Freud's work on psychoanalysis in literature involves the exploration of the unconscious mind and the use of symbolism in literary works. Freud believed that literary works could provide insight into the unconscious mind and that the use of symbolism in literature was a way of expressing unconscious thoughts and desires.

In addition Lurato (2016) argued that literary works could be analyzed in the same way as dreams, with symbols and themes representing unconscious desires and conflicts. Freud's work on psychoanalysis in literature has been influential in the field of literary criticism and has led to the development of psychoanalytic literary theory, which seeks to understand the psychological motivations behind literary works. This research will focus to find out what does the symbol that representative of tripartite mind and philosophical ideas about birth, growth, decay, and death in novel *The Midnight Library*.

Id, ego, and superego are suggests that human behavior is the result of a complex interplay between these three parts of the mind, with the ego mediating between the demands of the id and the constraints of the superego (Tambling, 2018). According to Laplanche (1993:34) that the death drive is primarily representative of the id, which is the most primitive and instinctual part of the psyche. The ego and superego, on the other hand, are more concerned with the preservation of life and the maintenance of social norms, respectively. However, Laplanche (1993:42) also notes that the death drive can have an impact on the ego and superego, as it can lead to self-destructive behavior or a rejection of social norms.

The tripartite mind is structured like a language, and the work of psychoanalysis is to decipher the symbolic meanings that are embedded in our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. This involves interpreting the metaphors that we use to describe our experiences, as well as the unconscious, conscious, and

moral metaphors that shape our desires and fantasies (Rimmon, 2014).

Psychoanalysis also can draw on the concepts of displacement, condensation, and symbolization, which are central to Freud's theory of the unconscious, to further explore the role of metaphor in psychoanalysis. Life and death desire refers to the complex interplay between the desire for life and the inevitability of death. This can take many forms in literature, from the exploration of mortality and the fear of death to the celebration of life and the pursuit of pleasure. Some writers have also explored the idea of a death drive, which is a concept from Freudian psychoanalysis that suggests that humans have an innate desire for self-destruction and the return to an inorganic state

Life refers to the state of being alive, characterized by growth, development, and the ability to respond to stimuli. Death, on the other hand, refers to the cessation of life, the end of biological functions, and the permanent loss of consciousness. In the context of psychoanalysis, life and death are often explored as fundamental aspects of the human experience, with birth, growth, decay, and death representing the four stages of the life cycle. The relationship between life and death is complex and multifaceted, with both concepts often serving as powerful motivators for human behavior. (Fowler A, 2022). Literature often explores themes related to life and death because these are fundamental aspects of the human experience.

Psychoanalytic can be used to analyze the narrative elements of a novel, including characterization, plot, and mood (Hossain, 2017). The symbols of psychoanalysis, such as the id, ego, and superego, can be used to represent different aspects of a character's personality and create internal conflicts within a character. These symbols can also be used to represent key aspects of the setting and explore themes related to human psychology and behavior. Therefore, the definition of psychoanalysis can influence narrative elements in a novel by providing a framework for analyzing the unconscious motivations and desires of characters, as well as the psychological underpinnings of the plot

and setting.

The search for meaning, the fear of mortality, and the desire for transcendence are universal themes that have been explored by writers throughout history. Psychoanalytic theory can provide a framework for exploring the motivations and desires of characters, as well as the ways in which their experiences and shape their present behavior (Amir, 2015). This can be seen in novels that use psychoanalytic concepts such as repression, the unconscious, and the mind complex to explore the inner lives of their characters.

1.6 Previous Studies

This study used several previous studies that were used as references for this research. The first, namely research from Salsabilla (2023) entitled “The Main Character’s Anxiety And Defense Mechanism In Matt Haig’s *The Midnight Library*”. The Previous study has been chosen because the study has the same object as what researcher analysis in this study. This thesis analyzing topic of anxiety that happend in the main character of the novel Nora Seed, describe about what kind of anxiety such as Neurotic, Realistic, and Moral that are carried out by the main character while taking some actions.

The journal from Novi (2022) entitled “The Influence Of Society In Committing Suicide In *The Midnight Library* Novel By Matt Haig” was writer use for the reference as the same object research. This journal analyzing the social factors that influence Nora to suicide in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Another previous study was came from journal by Mutiara (2023) entitled “Self Acceptance of The Main Character In Matt Haig’s *Midnight Library*” this study was analyzing the main character. The aim of thi research is for showing how the main character is respond and describe the problem of self-acceptance that affects the main character’s mental health. The difference between the previous study with this research is these all research have different topics and theories with the analysis of the object.

The next study conducted by Aryani Dwi Yuliyana (2022) entitled “Psychoanalysis Of The Main Character In Love Warrior By Glennon Doyle Melton’s Memoir Novel”. This previous study has been chosen due to have the same theory but have different object and topic for analyzing the object. This research focuses on analyzing the id, ego, superego of the main character of the object with using intrinsic value consisting of : plot, setting, and character.

The fifth study is from Tiffany Yunita (2017) entitled “Symbolism And Their Meanings In The Little Prince” this study has been chosen due to have the same topic. This study discusses about the major symbols in The Little Prince novel. This research also compared the denotative meaning of each symbol with its real meaning. The further previous study is came from Guntara (2016) entitled “The Symbol for Life and Death in into the Wild Movie : The Literal and Descriptive Study of Symbolism” this study was analyze the symbolism that representation of life and death symbols in film Into the Wild Movie and looking for the reason why those symbolism are called as symbols of life and death based on Frye’s theory.

Last, this study was referenced by the previous study from Hanifah Yulia Sari, Diantri Seprina, and Aditya Rachman (2022) entitled is “Shoe Symbolism in Guru Aini Novel : Sigmund Freud’s Psychoanalytic Study” this study was choose due to have the same topic and the same theory. The result of this research is to know the meaning of the symbolism of the use shoe diction used by the author by describing the structure of id, ego, and superego in the main character.

1.7 Definition Of Key Terms

1. Life and death desire : In psychoanalytic theory, life and death desires are seen as fundamental aspects of the human psyche, rooted in our unconscious drives and desires. The life drive, or Eros, is associated with the desire for pleasure, growth, and creativity, while the death drive, or Thanatos, is associated with the desire for destruction, decay, and ultimately, death. In literature, these drives are often explored through themes of love, sexuality, violence, and

mortality. For example, a character who is driven by the life desire might be depicted as striving for growth, creativity, and connection with others, while a character who is driven by the death desire might be depicted as destructive, nihilistic, or self-destructive. (Laplanche, J. 1993)

2 Symbolism : Symbolism is the use of symbols to represent ideas, concepts, or objects. Symbols are often visual or sensory representations that stand for something else, and they can be found in many different forms of communication, including literature, art, music, and religion. Symbols can be either conventional or unconventional (Lurato, 2016). Conventional symbols are those that are widely recognized and agreed upon by a particular culture or society, such as the use of a red traffic light to indicate "stop." Unconventional symbols, on the other hand, are more personal and subjective, and may be unique to an individual or a particular context.

3 Character development: Character development in literature encompasses the intricate and multifaceted endeavor of crafting fictional characters that possess a profound sense of depth and complexity, similar to the intricate nature of individuals in the real world. This entails the portrayal of a character's development in response to challenging circumstances, mirroring the way individuals in reality evolve and adjust to their respective contexts. The aforementioned progression can be discerned as the protagonist undergoes gradual transformations over the course of the story, hence exhibiting a shift in their characteristics and actions (Lerner, 2019).

4 Plot : Plot in literature includes the progression of interrelated events that constitute a narrative, elucidating the causal connections between said occurrences. The narrative not only presents a chronicle of events, but also clarifies the interconnections between them and provides an explanation for the unfolding of the story. The plot of a narrative refers to the sequence of events and actions that comprise the story, encompassing its development, progression, and temporal unfolding (Dipple, 2017).

5 Mood : Mood is the atmosphere generated by the narrative's

environment, attitude, and descriptions. The general emotion and atmosphere that the author wishes the reader to experience while reading the work. The mood is set to emotionally and

psychologically effect the reader, generating a sense for the tale. In literature, moods might be hopeful, exuberant, gloomy, nostalgic, concentrated, sentimental, pessimistic, or heavy (Tottoli, 2017).

6 Novel : A novel is an extended work of narrative fiction that is usually written in prose and published as a book. A novel is a long fictional narrative that usually makes use of a literary prose style (Aliyev, A. 2021).

7 Psychoanalytic approach : Psychoanalytic approach is a literary theory that is influenced by the tradition of psychoanalysis begun by Sigmund Freud. Therefore, psychoanalysis in literature involves using psychoanalytic concepts and techniques to analyze the narrative elements of a literary work, in order to create more engaging, meaningful, and nuanced narratives. Psychoanalytic can provide a deeper understanding of the psychological underpinnings of a literary work and can help readers to appreciate the art of storytelling and the power of language (Masse, 2012)