

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Life and death are the exact moments in every human's life, that life is a beginning and a compilation of events from when humans born until they grow older. The series of events include the moments where they will gain happiness, such as pleasure, and the opposite of joy as sorrow. To be living is the point of life, and it comes naturally from inside every human being since they were born. Taylor stated from a book edited by Benatar (2016, 29-30), that life meaning is from within the humans themselves, not from the outside of the humans. It means that humans' willingness to live life is how they want to put their effort into it. The effort is an embodiment of how they try to figure out one or some ways to preserve their lives. Meanwhile, death is inevitable, which means that every human will experience death after living their life. Life and death are described as dependent on each other (Smith 2010).

Death is a natural output of life that is described to be dependent on each other with life, and it also can be defined as an ending to life. Every living being will experience death by the end of their life, but how death comes to each human will be different from one another depending on the reason which humans have to deal with it. Illnesses, wars, accidents, and even self-destruction are prominent causes that lead living creatures to death. As humans grow up, they begin to experience what happened

in the series of events in their lives. These experiences which experienced by humans are not only include the experiences they desire to have, but also those which they do not that will lead them to one of the prominent causes of death, including a self-destructive action caused by an illness that makes humans feel the struggles and trauma.

Reed (1982, 27) states that the struggle is a condition between free will and determinism. Reed describes the struggle as an act to fight against superiority, including the act to get out of the tradition. From that, the struggle as a fight equated with the wish to destroy. Besides, another output comes from how humans are experiencing their lives, and it is the trauma. Trauma is something from outside human bodies that have the power to break into the humans' protection shield (Freud, Strachey and Gay 1961, 23). By its definition, a traumatic experience experienced by humans in their previous life when they were kids or when they have not reached the adult stage yet, can cause a self-destructive action by humans that will endanger their lives in the future.

The experiences that include struggle and trauma will influence the way humans think about their lives' continuation. Humans can decide the next step to continue their lives, either by making themselves feel safe or by letting the struggle and their traumatic experiences cause them to have a self-destructive action that will lead them to danger or even death. Humans are driven by their instinct to follow the principle they think is the best decision. Instinct naturally appears in every human since they were born, that instinct is the drive inside of every human to restore the previous condition from the things that placed them under pressure (Freud, Strachey and Gay

1961, 30). From Khaneghah (2015, 555), Freud stated that every living creature has and struggles between two opposing drives. The conflict between these two drives affects humans' personal lives and their relationship with their surroundings.

In Freudian Psychoanalysis, Freud emphasized an idea in the theory of drive concept. Freud first elaborated on the drive as the death drive, or it also has another name as Thanatos as an instinct of a life dissolution and the opposite term of life drive. The life drive, also known by Eros, later Freud found as the counterbalancing as a life preservative instinct (Kli 2018, 67). Humans' instincts or drives will appear based on what they think is the best way to react to a daily situation. The life and death drives are naturally inside every human to decide what they need to act or react towards their life choices. The death drive leads to the different meaning of the life drive, where it is possible to have a connection at how someone has a self-motivation to do a destructive action in their lives. It can also mean that the people who tend to let their death drive lead will put themselves in danger that will threaten their lives. The life drive is how humans want to survive and gain pleasure. Yunus and friends from Freud (2014, 2) stated that humans' life and death drives are the two drives that are conflicting inside every human.

The tripartite theory of mind affects the role of life and death drives. Humans' minds are divided into the id, ego, and superego, and mostly the id has a significant role in how the drives work. The id works in the pleasure principle, and as mentioned by Lemek (2008, 15), Freud stated that he divided the id forms into two: the life and death drives. Asyati from Feist and Gregory (2019, 6) mentioned that the id is present

from birth and entirely unconscious, including instinctive and primitive behaviors. The id describes how humans have the instinct to survive as their nature. It works to seek excitement and tension and aims to seek happiness to avoid pain (Liang 2011, 177). How humans tend to do self-destructive actions or have the force that pushes them to follow their instinct on giving themselves satisfaction is part of how the id works in the pleasure principle. These three structures of personality were argued by Freud are also naturally inside every human.

Moreover, psychology and literature are related to each other. Both have a strong connection that discusses humans and their attitudes, including their reactions, perceptions of the world, desires, fears, and many others (Aras 2015, 251). The same as in reality, in literary works, such as fictional works, the story's characters are the center and have importance to build the storyline. The characters also must have dealt with their psychological condition that connects with their instincts to create an enticing plot. The characters' role in a fictional work is to represent the stories and have an emotional quality (Abrams 1999, 32). That is how the characters portrayed as the central point in a literary work will help the readers understand the storyline. A made-up character by the writer of the fictional work gives a purpose, and it is not only made to deliver entertainment to the readers by their characteristics. The author's purpose in making the character is for the reader to pay attention to what is happening in the storyline (Reams 2015, 2). By analyzing the character's recent behavior, the readers must find that the characters have a background event in their past life, which now describes their personality.

This study discusses a form of fictional literature, a novel by Rachael Lippincott, Mikki Daughtry, and Tobias Iaconis's work of fiction entitled *Five Feet Apart*. The novel is a teen fiction that has a relatable plot with the life of teenagers and the reality of life, not only contains the love story which commonly appears in most of the teenager novels, but it also talks about the real condition of an illness namely *Cystic Fibrosis* (CF). The main characters in the novel are the CF survivors, and they have a bad luck to grow up with a deadly illness like CF. One of the main characters, namely William Newman, has the condition of *B. Cepacia*, which explains on how he cannot be near another patient because the bacteria inside his body is harmful to other people with CF. By that condition, he has to obey the rule of staying a minimum of six feet apart from another CF patient. William Newman portrays himself as someone who choose to reject what other people think is the best for his health condition, such as by abandoning all his treatments and the clinical trial his mother put him in, and it describes him as a rebel.

William Newman is the object focus of this study due to his interesting characterization from the beginning until the end of the plot. The character, William Newman, is portrayed as a vivid rebellious personality. Also, it is confirmed by the other characters as well. William's rebelliousness leads to a self-destructive action as he represents how the death drive worked on him to abandon all his treatment from how he acts and reacts towards all the life support that could save his life. Besides, the rebellious act from William is also pictured as a survival instinct for him to gain what he wants and to pursue his dreams, which can express his desire to continue living. The

survival instinct of William Newman possibly represents his life-preservative action. Several reasons come as evidence on why William Newman's rebelliousness is described as an action for him to survive and gain happiness. William is described as someone who has a dream to be free and visit some countries before his death because he knows that he does not have time to live longer and will die soon, also, not to be abandoned to be near the people he loves, for instance, is Stella Grant, his love interest who helps him to maintain his health and survive the CF together.

The characterization of William Newman that is more to show his rebellious part can assume that his instinct leads him more to the opposite of a life preservative action. His death drive takes the control of his life choices to refuse the treatment given by the hospital, which expresses his passiveness to get a better health condition. But his rebellious action is also a way for him to express his desire to gain the pleasure he wants to feel, remembering that he is abandoned to do the things he loved to do all his life. His rebelliousness describes his action in refusing the treatment which will put his life in danger. Still, a deeper understanding of his rebellious action is for him to receive self-satisfaction in doing the things he wants to do that can bring joy to him. The expression of feeling happy is included in how the life drive works, that it is to pursue happiness and avoid pain so someone has a will to continue or preserve their lives.

From previous studies on the same object, no discussion was focused on William Newman's character. Some earlier studies examined the other main character, the love interest of William Newman, Stella Grant who also holds a significant role in the novel. Stella Grant told as a character who also got CF, the same as Will Newman, but both

described to have the opposite characterization. It can be said that Stella Grant's overall characterization is the opposite of William Newman, that she is a very optimistic and cheerful girl. The first previous study is a journal article entitled *Protagonist's Motivation in Rachael Lippincott ET. AL.'S Novel Five Feet Apart by Anggraini and Wulan* (2020, 68-76). The discussion of the journal article discussed about the female lead character, Stella Grant, and her motivation to recover from her illness. The chosen topic from the mentioned research elaborated the form of love that provided help to encourage the healing process. This study aimed to elaborate on the understanding of Stella Grant's motivation to heal from her illness by receiving love.

The second previous study is entitled *The Analysis of Optimism Values of Stella Grant in Five Feet Apart Novel by Rachael Lippincott and Friends* by Tamara (2019). The research explained how Stella encouraged herself to heal from the CF. As the same survivor of CF, Stella Grant described to have the opposite characterization as William Newman, who was described as someone with realistic mindset but also had a tendency to do a rebellious act in facing his illness. The optimism in Stella Grant's personality enticed the researcher to find the aim of the study, which was to elaborate on how the optimism value in Stella Grant's character would help her to overcome her illness and spread it to William.

Both of the previous studies discussed how Stella Grant's character portrayed her positive traits and as the opposite of William Newman's characterization. The life drive maintains Stella's desire to be alive and survive her illness, unlike William Newman who was told to have a tendency to do a self-destructive action. William Newman was

also portrayed in both previous studies as Stella Grant's love interest and her motivation in a form of love who helped her to survive the illness. Still, no research discusses the character of William Newman and his motivation to heal from CF or his reaction to the rules that opposed his freedom. William Newman's rebel action can show both possibilities of him doing self-destruction or gaining happiness from the things he does not allow to do as his life-preservative action. The portrayal of his self-preservative action can be seen through how he follows his instinct to gain and receive love, and also to have the attention he wants to have as a son. This study aims to find the motivation behind his self-destructive action using Freudian Psychoanalysis on the theory of drives. For the same reason also, it can reveal his rebellious action as a will survive and gain happiness.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the written background of the study which elaborates the issue of William Newman's character above, this study has a statement of the problem to answer, and it is: "How does William Newman's rebellious act reflect his survival instinct toward his illness in *Five Feet Apart* Novel by Rachael Lippincott and friends?"

1.3. Objective of the Study

From the formulated statement of the problem mentioned earlier, the study aims to elaborate on the answer from the statement of the problem by describing on:

1. How William Newman's life and death drive performance shows the embodiment of his rebelliousness as an act of survival instinct. Besides a destructive action in the way he rejects his medications, his rebelliousness is also considered an act of self-preservation. William Newman shows his rebelliousness or disobedience to place himself in a pleasant condition he wanted to feel due to his illness, which made him incapable of doing regular activities like others.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study aims to find the form of the life and death drives in William Newman's rebelliousness in elaborating his self-destructive action and desire to gain happiness and pursue his dreams. William Newman is a male lead character in the novel *Five Feet Apart* who is a patient of Cystic Fibrosis with the *B. Cepacia* condition and has a vivid rebellious personality. Some studies on the same novel had already discussed Stella Grant's positive and motivational character, but the researcher still cannot find a discussion on William's character. Thus, the answered statement of the problem from this study can examine and provide new information on William Newman's character analysis in the *Five Feet Apart* novel. The researcher considers that the new information from this study will be helpful for future researchers of foreign language and literature who wants to analyze the same issue on character analysis, especially the one that will use Freudian psychoanalysis with the theory of drive. This study is also a requirement for the researcher's bachelor degree study fulfillment.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

1. **Life Drive:** Operates since the beginning of life or an instinct of every human being that works to continue living and avoid pain (Freud, Strachey and Gay 1961, 55).
2. **Death Drive:** A destructive instinct pushes the individual towards the inorganic state or the beginning before all organic life (Solomon 1973, 91-92).
3. **Rebellious:** Quoted from the Cambridge Dictionary, rebellious (adjective) is an expression of disagreement towards the people in authority, organization, politics, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary n.d.).
4. **Survival:** Survival comes from the basic instinct, described as living creatures living in challenging situations (Ilham, Poli and Makka 2019, 59)