

ABSTRACT

Veronika Decides to Die is a novel about a young girl who has almost everything in life. However, one day she decides to commit suicide for she feels that there is something missing in her life. She takes an overdose of sleeping pills. This fails and she wakes to find herself in Villette, a mental asylum. In Villette, she tries to explore the boundaries between madness and sanity that she gets from the doctor and the inmates.

In analyzing those issues, the writer of the study uses Discourse of Power proposed by Michel Foucault. According to Foucault, truth of knowledge is not outside power. Rather, it is produced by discourse that is systematically constructed within a certain context so that it influences way of thinking and certain action.

This research focuses on the viewpoints of other characters toward Veronika's madness, and their treatment toward Veronika. Besides, this study also aims to find the contribution of power relations between the characters in the meaning of Veronika's madness.

In this study, there is evident that discourse and power take role in the meaning of madness in Veronika's character. The strong power of the doctor could determine that a substance in organism called Vitriol causes Veronika's madness. Nevertheless, the inmates also give an insight to Veronika that madness