

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

There are many news of death that can be heard every day. Human death is a sure thing, all living things will eventually die, both consciously and unconsciously. The unconscious death is the end of a person's life, or so-called absence of life in biological organisms, as their aged, their organs will gradually stop working. Death is a mystery that even humans will never be able to find the answer to, this is the destiny of nature or the will of an almighty creator. In social life we often heard about suicide news, this can be explained as a conscious death or an act of ending his life intentionally.

Accidental deaths are often reported that a person cannot repay a debt, this action is prohibited according to the community because if they can work harder there is a possibility within 5 to 10 years then the debt bills will be repaid. However, it is a different story if it happens to a patient who has end-stage cancer then the doctor explains that the rest of his life is only 3 months, of course, the patient wishes to end his life sooner, arguing that they do not want to be a burden to families who will be abandoned and of course because the cost of medical care is fairly expensive. This is the reason for the formation of the Dignitas organization to accept patients who wish to do euthanasia.

According to Materstvedt et al. (2003) defined euthanasia as helping to end a patient's life which is done by a doctor intentionally of course already has the approval of the patient's family, this is usually done by administering drugs.

Euthanasia because of ending the suffering patients who are chronically ill and disabled but who are not dying and euthanasia can end life by giving it directly without the patient's consent. But the rule of death assistance is only applied to patients who are dying. Based on Ngazis (2014) article entitled "*Swiss, 'Surga' pasien bunuh diri*" stated that people who used the death aid came from after the range of 23-97 years and the average age was 69 years. When viewed from gender, more than half of patients assisted in suicide, namely women (58.5 percent) while men (40 percent). All users of this service are said to have utilized the facilities of one of them, Dignity, a group in Switzerland that helps sufferers of terminal illnesses such as cancer and the physical to be helped to die. While the profile of patients who want to do euthanasia with this assistance suffer from cancer, rheumatism and neurological problems such as paralysis, motor nerve disease, parkinsonism, multiple sclerosis including diseases that disrupt the central nervous system, especially the brain, and spinal cord.

One of euthanasia that happened came from the most famous psychologist expert, Sigmund Freud. Freud was suffered from severe illness due to not able to cure his oral cancer. On September 21, 1939, Freud was with his friend, Max Schur and then he reminded about the previous promise not to do anything unnecessary. He added, "*Now nothing but torment and no sense.*" after his daughter's permission Dr. Schur injected three heavy morphs to end Freud's life. Freud went into a coma and he never woke up. Based on Adeyemo (2004) article entitled "Sigmund Freud: smoking habit, oral cancer, and euthanasia" described that Freud became a heavy smoker all his life. Freud had undergone 34 surgeries

after the doctor discovered a cancer tumor in Freud's mouth so that an action was taken to insert a large prosthesis to separate the sinuses and jaw. But Freud never stopped smoking. Klein (2014) added information in the article entitled "10 Things You May Not Know About Sigmund Freud" stated that in 1939.

The act of ending his life by Freud gave rise to a dilemma about euthanasia. Freud's attitude was based on the existence of the subconscious that controls most behavior. Also, they experience development or sublimation, which can lead to a variety of other behaviors that are adjusted to the norms of society due to their inability to live a decent life as usual due to oral cancer that he experienced and can't be treated like most euthanasia patients, they can't fulfill the wishes them and choose to end their lives.

Based on Freud in Boothby (1991) conceived the death drive is governed by the pursuit of self-satisfaction to achieve the desired thing and also to avoid pain. Patients suffering from severe diseases such as cancer/ tumor/ paralysis or diseases that hope to heal are small usually have a high sense of death. Moreover, with the experience of treating patients who have not recovered or sometimes painful to undergo treatment which then triggers death more quickly in patients who experience severe pain also cannot bear to burden their families with little hope of patients to recover from the disease. So suicide is a choice to relieve pain and also eliminate the suffering of everyone.

In literature, Lacan stated that the death drive was applied using three orders, namely imaginary, symbolic, and real. These three orders are later becoming the death drive in the form of self-denial, repetition, sublimation, and gaze. The

process of self-denial at first begins with the process of recognition in the mirror phase which created a state of deprivation as a result of the separation or caste of symbolism. The repetition process happened because the subject continued the separation in the symbolic order. The sublimation process gives an illusion to the subject that is the completeness of the object of the search. The gaze process gives a bad impression to the subject who argues that as if the suffering he experienced is a form of pleasure from another person or a symbolic order which then directs the subject to the death drive.

As a reflection of social phenomena, literature often displayed various kinds of issues and problems that exist in the community, one of them is the phenomenon of death. The novel entitled *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes (2012) is one of the novels that present a phenomenon of death related to suicide in planning or euthanasia. Moyes was inspired to make this novel when she had driven and listened to the radio news about the rugby player who had persuaded his family to take him to Dignity after these several years as a quadriplegic. This reason then inspired Moyes to build Will's character as a rich man who was paralyzed due to an accident and decided to euthanasia.

The novel *Me Before You* was first published in the United Kingdom on January 5, 2012. It's also received several awards such as the first place bestseller books in the New York Times newspaper, also at number seventeenth in Hardback Fiction and thirty-fourth in E-Books Fiction. Then, there is also Bailey (2019) from USA Today's entitled '*Me Before You*' is one you should read information to a reader that this book is entertaining and also to invite

connoisseurs of books because novel contains a funny story and moving but never can be predicted. According to Athitakis (2016) in Oprah's article entitled *Books to Read before They Become Movies* described the novel is devoted to sweets with several unique stories that make the hearts of readers melt will see the struggle of a Louisa in helping the character William to get out of his problems. Also, Schillinger (2013) in The New York Times article entitled *Cost of Care* stated the story of this novel is really "real crybaby." It contained betrayal so that what distinguishes it from other novels at the time of attainment of the power of melting moods. Thus the researcher decided to use this novel as the main data source of research by linking the theory of death drive by Lacan as the analytical knife.

The phenomenon of euthanasia in the novel *Me Before You* certainly leads the researchers to learn more about the death drive. The story begins with a wealthy young man named Will Traynor who liked extreme sports, then one day he had a motorcycle accident that made him suffered a spinal injury that left him paralyzed both of his hands and legs or also known as quadriplegic. Because of the accident also made Will felt pain such as pneumonia and burning limbs. This is the reason Will decided to end of his pain by do euthanasia. As the quotation below:

*"I need it to end here. No more chair. No more pneumonia. No more burning limbs. No more pain and tiredness and waking up every morning already wishing it was over."* (Moyes, 2012, p. 362)

From this quote stated that it is clear that Will is at the limit to be able to survive with his incurable quadriplegic condition, one of the reasons that made him feel confident that doing euthanasia can end-all of his suffering. This quote is

categorized as death drive concept in the gaze. Here, according to Lacan in Boothby (1991) stated gaze is the basis for the impulse of death drive where death as a construction a fantasy. The death meant in this case is fantasy phenomenon for Will. Because by doing euthanasia, he can get a real phase of dreams that is free from the burden of his life.

The fourth death was formed above because psychologically can influence the attitude and way of acting character in facing death. This will be proven in the discussion of this study using the concept of Lacan in finding the impact of the death drive that exists on the characters in the novel *me before you*. Will's character is very strong in the discussion of this research related to the reasons Will intends to end his life will be discussed in this study straightforwardly using Lacan's psychoanalytic theory as the impact of the death drive is anxiety, depression, impulsive attitude, and self-destruction.

The following are some of the journals that give much contribution in developing this idea. The first study written by Garrigós (2015) entitled *Death Drive and Desire in Cronenberg's Adaptation of DeLillo's Cosmopolis*. The research focused on the notion of the death drive as related to global capitalism in the story of *Cosmopolis*. This research analyzed the death drive, by focusing on the notion of desire, subject hood, the ego, and the I of the spectator-subject. This research used the theory of death drive by Freud. The result of this research is the researcher found that *Cosmopolis's* novel is reflections on the death drive of capitalism. In DeLillo's world, the desire to die and the longing for immortality

are inextricably linked which confront the end (death) with its own destruction (immortality).

The second journal written by Hutami (2017) entitled *Death Instinct Manifested through Passive-Aggressiveness and Its Social Effects in Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener"*. Her research focused on the death instinct manifest through passive-aggressiveness by depicting a short story of "Bartleby the Scrivener". This research uses Freud's theory, the death instinct. The result of this research is the research found Bartleby's death instinct which leads him into death is caused by his stubborn that slowly affects his relationship and people around him. Because of this condition, people who interact with Bartleby, show certain behaviors, which are anxiety, confusion, and anger.

All the researchers above are different from this research because the researcher focuses on the death drive of the main character that has to suffer from quadriplegic so he decided to do euthanasia in Switzerland by helping his family. First, the research found that character depression can be made people suffering because of a feeling of guilt by need help from other people. Second, research also found affected quadriplegic to the psychology of the main character by using Lacan's theory of death drive.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

The writer finds out several problems while reading the story and they are interesting to be revealed such as:

1. The main character wanted to euthanasia because he had an accident two years ago.

2. The main character depression can be made people suffering because of a feeling of guilt by need help from other people.
3. The affected of quadriplegic to the psychology of the main character by using Lacan's theory of death drive.
4. The psychology of the main character as the impact of death drive in the novel *Me Before You*.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, this research consists of:

1. The concept of death drive reflected to the character in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.
2. The impact of death drive toward character psychology in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

The problem formulation of this paper as follows:

1. How is the death drive reflected in the main character in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes?
2. How is the impact of the death drive depicted by the psychology of the main character in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the study above, the researcher has some objective as follow:

1. To describes the death drive reflected to the character in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes.



2. To explain the impacts of the death drive that depicted to the main character psychology in the novel *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

## 1.6 Significance of the Research

The study is expected to be able to provide the following benefit:

### 1. Theoretical Benefit

This research is expected to motivate the readers to comprehend literary works in novel *Me Before You* and also to provide an explanation of Lacan theory the concept of death drive.

### 2. Practical Benefit

The results of this study are expected to know the writer's own understanding of the forms of death in the novel *Me Before You*. This research is also dedicated to the development of literary studies at Batam's Putera University, especially in the English Department and to provide a deeper understanding in the field of literature and also as a reference for future researchers in analyzing novels analyzed or the same theory used in this research into different perspective.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Death drive	the drive toward death and self-destruction. (Boothby:1991)
Euthanasia	the action to killing a person on request and defined as a doctor intentionally killing a person by the administration of drugs, at that person's voluntary and competent request. (Materstvedt et al:2003)
Psychoanalysis	the theoretical framework of human developments, psychological functioning, psychopathology, and also change processes, as well as a distinctive model of psychotherapy. (Safran and Gardner-Schuster:2015)