



**AN EXISTENTIAL STUDY :
LOUISA'S SEARCH FOR MEANING OF LIFE
IN JOJO MOYES'S *ME BEFORE YOU***

**A FINAL PROJECT
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree in Literatures
In English Department Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University**

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SEMARANG
2018**

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree from any university. Furthermore, the writer also explains that she does not take any material from other people's work except for the list mentioned in the references.

Semarang, September 13th 2018

Khoirunnisa Rakhmawati

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Live as if you were living already for the second time and as if you had acted the first time as wrongly as you are about to act now!

Viktor Emil Frankl

Live boldly. Push yourself. Don't settle.

***Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes**

So be patient. Indeed, the promise of Allah is a truth. And let them not disquiet you who are not certain.

QS Ar Rum: 60

*This final project is dedicated to
my beloved parents and
to everyone who has helped me accomplish it.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise be to Allah SWT, who has given the writer strength and spirit so this final project entitled “Louisa’s Search For Meaning of Life in Jojo Moyes’s *Me Before You*” came into completion. On this occasion, the writer would like to thank all of those people who have helped and supported me in completing this final project. Without their contribution, the writer would have never been able to finish this work.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to Dr. Ratna Asmarani, M.Ed., M.Hum., —the writer’s advisor— who has given her helpful correction, continuous guidance, support, and suggestion during the process of this final paper completion. The writer especially extends a sincere gratitude to the following:

1. Dr. Rediyanto Noor, M.Hum., as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University;
2. Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M.A., as the Head of the English Department of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
3. All lecturers in English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, who have shared their knowledge and experiences.
4. My beloved family, Bapak Sukamdani, Ibu Awal Suryani, and Mas Raditya Dian Arikunto. Thank you for the endless support, love, and prayers.
5. Henty Eka Palupy, Wulandani Nurjanah, thank you for the long-lasting friendship.

6. My closest friends in college, Yolanda Ayu Belia and Friska Ayudya Ferawati, thank you for the happiness, sadness, craziness moment that you have shared in four years.
7. My best friend Irene Karla Karmelita. Thank you for the continuous advice and guidance that you have shared with me during the undergraduate study.
8. KKN Tim II 2017 Desa Kedawung, Kandangan, Temanggung; Irfan Ari Kurniafandi, Nurul Fadhillah, Dyah Ayu Pertiwi, Fachry Rizqy Amin, thank you for the good times.
9. All my friends in English Department batch 2014, thank you for every unforgettable moment in my life.

The writer realizes that this extended essay is still far from perfect. Therefore she will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this essay better. Lastly, the writer expects that this extended essay will be useful for anyone who wishes to learn about the meaning of life.

Semarang, September 13th 2018

Khoirunnisa Rakhmawati

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ABSTRACT

The meaning of life is a thing that is significant enough to be found in one's life. The main character in Jojo Moyes's *Me Before You* depicts a process to find the meaning of life. The purposes of this study are to analyze how the main character struggles to get the meaning of her life and to know the difficulties that she faces during the process to search the meaning of life. The writer uses library research and psychosocial approach as a method of the study. Viktor E. Frankl's Logotherapy concept is also used to analyze the extrinsic aspect of *Me Before You*. The result of this research shows that the main character of *Me Before You* faces some difficulties that make her passes the three pathways to meaning; creative value, experiential value, attitudinal value towards sufferings. The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is the main character of *Me Before You* successfully gets a meaningful life and turns herself into a better person.

Keywords: Viktor E. Frankl, Meaning of Life, Logotherapy concept.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Life is a journey that has to be undergone by each person in this world. Frankl states that everyone in this world was born with his/her own purposes in life that is different from one to another (1988: 113). Each human in this world has his/her own life and also his/her own ways to determine his/her life. To create a valuable and meaningful life, one has required to find the meaning of his/her own life.

However, there are few persons that are having difficulties during the process to value the meaning of life. Fear is one of the psychological problems that can become an obstacle in one's search for meaning. When the character has a fear in his/her life, he/she cannot determine his/her life well. The fear inside the character's soul causes him/her to lose the purposes of life. This condition can lead to the moment when the character does not understand the meaning of life. A character who suffers from psychological problems is challenged to fight against the fear to live up his/her life again by doing any useful activities such as working.

One of the literary works that depicts about discovering the meaningful life is *Me Before You*, a novel that is written by Jojo Moyes. This novel tells the readers about the struggle of a girl named Louisa Clark to pursue the meaning of life. Since the beginning of the story, Louisa has not found her meaning of life. She has experienced a sexual harassment that causes her losing a strong desire to find the goals in her life. Because of that reason, Louisa's life is filled with the emptiness. However, the fate brings her to the enlightenment moment that

eventually changes her life. She meets and works for a quadriplegic guy named Will Traynor, that makes her start to learn the meaning of life.

The story of *Me Before You* makes the writer understands the value of the meaning of life and also motivates the writer to appreciate life. The struggle of Louisa Clark to value the meaning of life is the reason why this study is entitled, “An Existential Study: Louisa’s Search for Meaning of Life in Jojo Moyes’s *Me Before You*”.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the title and the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems as follows :

1. What is the event that underlies Louisa Clark to get her meaningful life?
2. How does Louisa get the meaning of life?
3. What is the meaning of life that finally Louisa gets?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

From the statement of the problems, the aims of the study are presented as follows:

1. To analyze the event that leads Louisa to have her meaningful life.
2. To analyze how Louisa gets the meaning of life.
3. To analyze the meaning of life that Louisa gets.

1.4 Methods of the Study

To answer the statement of problems, the writer uses library research as a method. George says that library research aims to help the writer to collect the information and the theory that is related to the study (2008: 6). The writer uses a novel by

Jojo Moyes entitled *Me Before You* as the object of the study. As for supporting data, the writer gets some references from books, online journal, and internet.

To analyze the novel *Me Before You*, the writer uses the psychosocial approach. Howe finds that a psychosocial approach is an approach which is concerned to study the internal and the external factors that can give the influences in one's changing behaviour (2009: 171). In this approach, the writer applies the concept of Meaning of Life which are proposed by Viktor E. Frankl to analyze how the main character of *Me Before You*, Louisa Clark, values the meaning of life.

2. BIOGRAPHY AND SUMMARY

In this section, the writer will discuss about the biography of Jojo Moyes, the author of *Me Before You*, and the summary of *Me Before You*. The writer focuses on the life and works of Jojo Moyes in the biography of the author. As for the summary, the writer elaborates the plot story of *Me Before You*.

2.1 Biography of the Author

The biography of Jojo Moyes is arranged based on <http://www.jojomoyes.com/about-jojo/> accessed on August 11, 2018.

Pauline Sara-Jo Moyes is a British novelist well known as Jojo Moyes. She is a daughter of an illustrator and successful sculptor, Elizabeth J. McKee and James C. Moyes. Moyes was born in Maidstone, a historic town in the south-east of England, on 04 August 1969.

In 1989, Moyes attended London University to study Journalism and got her degree in three years. During her undergraduate study in London University, she worked as a part-time writer for *The Egham and Staines News*. Through that job, Moyes finally got a scholarship from *The Independent* newspaper to enter the postgraduate journalism program at City University. After graduation, she began her career as an English journalist. Moyes worked as a journalist for ten years, a year at *Sunday Morning Post* in Hongkong and nine years at *The Independent* newspaper

In 2002, Moyes started her full-time career as an author. Her first novel, *Sheltering Rain* was published in the same year. In 2004, Moyes published her novel entitled *Foreign Fruit* and won The Romantic Novelist's Award. Seven years later, Moyes got the same award for her novel *The Last Letter From Your Lover*.

In 2012, Moyes published a novel entitled *Me Before You*. This novel is nominated as the Book of the Year Award from UK Galaxy Book Awards. It also reached the high selling in the *New York Times*. In 2016, a movie version of *Me Before You* was released with Emilia Clarke played as the main character, Louisa Clark. Moyes later writes the sequels of *Me Before You*, in which starring Louisa Clark as the central character: *After You* in 2015 and *Still Me* in 2018.

Currently, Moyes is married to an English journalist named Charles Arthur. They live in Great Sampford, Essex, England with their three children, Saskia, Harry and Lockie.

3.2 Summary of *Me Before You*.

Me Before You tells about Louisa Clark, the main character of this novel, and her life. Louisa Clark is a twenty-six years old woman who lives as the main earner for her family.

The story starts when Louisa loses her job as a waitress due to the bankruptcy of the cafe. She goes to the Job Centre and finds a temporary position as a carer for Will Traynor, a successful guy who had a motorcycle accident two years ago. Camilla Traynor, Will's mother, hires Louisa to take care of her son together with Nathan, Will's private nurse, for six months. From Nathan's information, Louisa knows that Will is suffered from spinal cord with a c5/6 quadriplegic level of injury, that causes him to have a total paralysis of hands, wrists, trunk and legs.

The relationship between Louisa and Will Traynor does not go well at the first few days. Will acts cold toward Louisa's joyful manner. It takes two weeks for them to build a good relationship. Under Louisa's care, Will gradually becomes cheerful and talkative as they communicate with each other.

Over the next few weeks, the two of them begin to grow closer. Through their frequent discussion, Louisa learns that Will's former life is exciting. Will Traynor, on the contrary, starts to notice how limited Louisa's life is. He tries to motivate Louisa by giving a lot of life lessons. Will also gives Louisa a guidance that make her starts to value the meaning of life.

One day, Louisa has overheard the Traynor's conversation. From their discussion, Louisa knows that Will Traynor is going to kill himself through

Dignitas six months later. Dignitas is a Swiss non-profit organization which provides a legal suicide under the qualified Swiss's doctors.

Louisa then quits the carer's job since she does not want to be involved in a suicidal attempt. She leaves the Traynor's house and submits a resignation letter to Camilla Traynor. The next day, Camilla Traynor comes to Louisa's house and begs her to return. She informs Louisa that she does her best in six months to make Will cancels his death wish. Louisa then agrees to return and helps Camilla to change Will's decision.

Louisa goes to the library and joins a quadriplegic's chatroom to find a quadriplegic's friendly adventures She creates several outing trips for Will Traynor and discusses her plan to Will's parents. Overall, Louisa wants Will feels that his life in a wheelchair is worth living. Through the outing plan, Louisa feels that her job is beneficial for herself and the others.

On the following days, Louisa starts the outing plan. She takes Will to attend horse racing, goes to the classic musical concert and having a tattoo. They also attend Will's ex-girlfriend wedding party. Louisa and Will begin to develop strong feelings for each other, which makes Patrick, Louisa's longterm-boyfriend, feels jealous and eventually leads to a break-up.

In the last month of the carer's employment contract, Louisa is failed to convince Will Traynor. During a luxurious trip on Mauritius island, Louisa tells Will that she loves him. Louisa admits that she has made a huge improvement in her life by the time she follows Will's suggestion. But, Will informs Louisa that

he still intends to go to the Dignitas centre to commit suicide. He asks Louisa to come in his final moment at Switzerland one week later.

Louisa is heartbroken and decides to resign from the job as soon as she returns to England. At home, Louisa tells her family about the Traynor's secret. Things are getting more complicated after Louisa knows that Will has gone to Switzerland to commit a suicide. Louisa cannot go outside because the reporters are waiting outside her house. Her mother, Josie Clark also forbids her to get involved in the Traynor's life anymore. However, Louisa still intends to support Will since she has a deep feeling for him. Therefore, Louisa then makes up her mind and goes to Switzerland to see Will Traynor on his final day.

The story ends by the time Louisa has come to France. A few weeks after Will's death, Louisa leads a new life in Paris. In this place, Louisa is ready to pursue her dream to learn fashion. The time that Louisa has with Will Traynor successfully changes her into a better person.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The intrinsic and extrinsic element of the story are important to be discussed. In this study, the intrinsic elements are consist of character, settings, and conflict. While for the extrinsic elements, the writer will explain about Logotherapy concept, a study of the meaning of life, by Victor Emil Frank.

3.1 Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements are the essential part of the structure of fiction. It has an essential role that depicts the environment and condition of the story. Therefore, the reader will understand how the story is portrayed by reading the intrinsic

element. Those intrinsic elements analyzed in this study are character, setting, and conflict.

3.1.1 Character

Character is a primary element in a work of fiction. According to Holman, the term of character is used to refer to a figure who appears in a literary work. Characters are a fictional form of human being who symbolizes some virtue or quality. They exemplify certain qualities, such as kind-hearted and wicked as if they were real human being (Holman, 1966). A character is a person who contributes to a story in countless ways. They can be used as a media to deliver the ideas and the moral value of the story to the readers (Dickinson, 1996).

Character is classified into certain categories. They can be major, minor, stock, or type. Foster as quoted by Kenney in his book entitled *How to Analyze Fiction* (1966: 28-29) classifies two types of character: a flat character and a round character. A flat character is one who only has a single characteristic. The characteristic remains the same from the beginning to end. Round character, on the other hand, is one who goes through a sort of development in a long series of experiences. A round character with more traits is changeable, unlike a flat character whose characteristic is changeless.

3.1.2 Setting

Setting presents detail information about time and place where the story happens. The setting may be slight or full and sharply detailed. It can be important due to several functions. The author uses setting to build a mood and an atmosphere of the story. An atmosphere will help the author to produce a particular effect in his

work of fiction. It will make the stories more interesting to read (Kennedy, 1991: 80).

Settings can be divided into three types, such as the time, place, and social environment. Time used to explain when the action happens in a story. Place is the second type of settings which informs where the event takes a place. It informs the readers the name of certain location based on reality or fantasy. The idea of setting of place includes the physical environment such as a road, a house, even a region where the story runs. Social environment refers to the background of life of a character. It gives the readers information about the traditions and social customs at the time that occur in a story. Those classes of setting help the readers understand what happens in a story (Meyer, 1990: 107).

3.1.3 Conflict

Conflict is a result of a contradiction between at least two sides. It is something that makes the character fight with the other in a storyline. Conflict is the elements of interest in literary work that build-up the story (Kennedy, 1966:25). Conflicts are significant enough to build relationships with the other elements. Conflict is the primary structure of the plot. All the great fiction needs a good conflict. Without an opposition, a plot does not exist. A character will be flat due to the absence of the conflict (Holman, 1980: 98).

Conflict can be divided into internal conflicts and external conflicts. External conflicts occur between the characters and the outside sources. Meanwhile, internal conflicts take place entirely in character's mind. Internal

conflicts happen due to different desires called as psychological conflict. A character has to fight with himself (Meyer, 1990: 46).

Conflicts can happen into four different kinds. The first type happens when a character finds himself struggle with the forces of nature, such as storm and other disasters. The second is the most basic type of conflict. It happens in a situation in which two characters have opposites desires. The third type exists when a character fight against the cultures of society. The last type happens within the character. Overall, the first until the third conflicts can be categorized as external conflicts while the last belongs to internal conflicts (Holman, 1960: 105).

3.2 Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic elements are an essential part in the sturcture of a fiction. Extrinsic aspect in this study is about the meaning of life; the origin of the meaning of life, the obstacles in meaning of life, and the three pathways to the meaningful life. The writer chooses those three extrinsic elements because the writer found that the story of *Me Before You* mainly concerns about the concept of the meaning of life.

3.2.1 Logotherapy Overview

The word “Logotherapy” originates from a German word “logos” which means “meaning” and the word “therapy” which means “a treatment”. Logotherapy or it has been called The Third Viennese School of Psychotherapy, can be defined as a psychotherapy which focuses on the efforts of finding the meaning of life (Frankl, 1988: 121).

Logotherapy is originally introduced by Victor E. Frankl, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Logotherapy believes that

everything that happens in our lives is a reflection of a meaning. Every good or worse condition in life has a meaning. Even the most painful moments in our life has a purpose (Frankl, 1988: 11).

Logotherapy has three pillars which underlies entire theories. These are "freedom of will", 'will to meaning' and 'the meaning of life". Freedom is the attitude toward any circumstance in life. It is our right to be free. However, freedom must be supported by a responsibility to choose the right choice. A person must be able to view any condition from different points. Once a person has acknowledged the freedom of will, then the will to meaning arise. Will to meaning is the desires to value the meaning of life. It can only be discovered and fulfilled on our own. If one has acknowledged both of freedom of will and will to meaning, he is ready to pursue the meaning of life (Frankl, 1988: 121).

3.2.1.1 Existential Vacuum

Existential vacuum is one of the problems that arises during the process of finding the meaning of life. It can be defined as a condition when a person shows the excessive boredom in his life (Frankl, 1988: 48).

Existential vacuum can happen for several reasons. Pattakos has mentioned that fear is one of the reasons behind this problem. Fear according to Pattakos is 'a giant fog' that can be an obstacle in one's search for meaning. In this context, "Fog" is a metaphorical word that refers to one's inability to actualize a creative value and to experience new things (Pattakos, 2008: 90).

When someone has suffered from the existential vacuum, he cannot expresses his goals of life. He finds no reply when someone else is questioning

the meaning of life. This condition can lead to a stage which Yalom's called as a meaninglessness-life. As he stated in his book *Existential Psychotherapy*, "Meaninglessness is a failure to find meaning in life, the feeling that one has nothing to live for, nothing to struggle for, nothing to hope for ... unable to find any goal or direction in life, the feeling that though individuals *perspire* in their work, they have nothing to *aspire* to" (1980: 421).

Meaninglessness-life refers to a condition when a person could not recognize the quality of his life. He lives an empty life without any significant purposes. He cannot comprehend the life he has been living for. To sum up, a person who lives in a meaninglessness-life has no goals and passions in life. (Eagleton, 2008: 37).

3.2.1.2 The Meaningful Life in Logotherapy

Frankl in Pattakos finds that meaning of life is not created by a person (2008: 81). Meaning can be found everywhere in anytime. Every single thing we do in life is a reflection of a meaning. Meaning of life lies within one's self and differs from one to another.

In order to value the meaning of life, Frankl in his logotherapy concept formulates the three pathways to meaning. He states, "According to logotherapy, we can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: (1) by creating a work or doing a deed; (2) by experiencing something or encountering someone; and (3) by the attitude we take toward unavoidable suffering (1984: 133)."

From the quotation above, it can be assumed that there were three ways to discover the meaning of life. The first way is also known as the creative value.

People can value the meaning of life through an occupation. The second way is experiential value. Experiential values happen when one meets a person that makes her/him learnings to find the meaning of life. The last way is called as the attitudinal value. The attitudinal value is achieved through the human's attitude to face his destiny.

3.2.1.2.1 Creative Value

The first way of discovering the meaning of life is by creating work. People can discover the meaning of life by working or doing something in his life. Pursuing a job can give advantages for oneself and others. Guttman clarifies that self-acceptance is the ultimate key to discover the meaning in work life. Once a person enters the work-life, he must open himself to a meaning. Only a person who is willing to pay attention to himself and to the others could find the meaning in work. A positive attitude by loving the jobs will enhance the quality of life as well as the life of others (2008: 28).

3.2.1.2.2 Experiential Value

The second way of finding meaning in life is by experiencing something or encountering someone. Frankl finds that love is the way for a person to understand and recognize the existence of another human being (2008: 136). Singer also states that love is a fundamental power which can underlie the meaning in life (1994: 2).

People can find the meaning of life by encountering someone that makes him/her learn to find the meaning of life. Love is a power who can make people understand their existence. It is the method used by a person to understand his/her

partner. Love is all about taking and giving something. By accepting love, someone will recognize his/her partner's uncovered skills and has capabilities to empower those potential skills (Frankl, 2008: 136). To conclude, Guttman says that love is the significant things to be fulfilled in life. Without the presence of love, a person's life will be in a state of emptiness and loneliness (2008: 22).

3.2.1.2.3 Attitudinal Value toward Suffering

Attitudinal value towards suffering is the last way to value the meaning of life. According to Logotherapy, every good and bad condition has a purpose. Even the worst condition, such as suffering, holds the meaning of life. Therefore, an attitudinal value can be defined as our attitude to accept a suffering state with full patience. In this condition, someone is challenged to change himself. He is challenged to transform suffering into a victory by accepting his fate and change his attitude. As a result, he is able to see the meaning and wisdom of the suffering. (Frankl, 1998: 135).

4. ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer would like to explain the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements in *Me Before You*. The analysis is written based on the theory that has been mentioned in chapter III.

4.1 Analysis of Intrinsic Elements

Louisa Clark is going to be the centre of the discussion in this study. Therefore, the intrinsic elements in this chapter are going to discuss the character of Louisa, the conflicts that she faces, and the story setting of *Me Before You*.

4.1.1 Analysis of Character

The author of *Me Before You* directly shows how Louisa looks like, “I am small, dark-haired and, according to my dad, have the face of an elf. That’s not as in ‘elfin beauty’. I am not plain, but I don’t think anyone is ever going to call me beautiful” (Moyes, 2012: 23). For her personalities, the author describes that Louisa is an outspoken woman who likes to express her opinion very directly, “My father calls me a ‘character’, because I tend to say the first thing that pops into my head” (Moyes, 2012: 22). Apart from her personalities, Louisa is a twenty six-year old girl who has good taste in clothes. She does not like to dress like any other woman in her age. As stated below:

“My mother calls me ‘individual’ which is her polite way of not quite understanding the way I dress. But apart from a brief period in my teens, I never wanted to look like Treena, or any other girls school; I preferred boys’ clothes till I was about fourteen, and now tend to please myself depending on what mood I am in on the day. There’s no point me trying to look conventional” (Moyes, 2012: 22).

Louisa Clark can be said as a round character, since she gets sort of changes and development. At the beginning of the story, Louisa is portrayed as a woman who loves to work. Since the age of twenty one, she takes the responsibility to be the earner of her family. She works hard to keep the financial balance. In the other words, it seems that she has no other interest and activity besides working. Her passion on working is proved by the following quotation:

“Everyone I knew hated Monday Mornings, but I never minded them. I liked arriving early at The Buttered Bun, firing up the huge tea urn in the corner, bringing in the crates of milk and bread from the backyard and chatting to Frank as we prepared to open” (Moyes, 2012: 10).

Despite her passion for working, Louisa is described as a woman who seems un-ambitious. She never wants to explore new thing because she is afraid

of someone else's reaction. She cuts herself from a lot of experiences since she dares not to take the risks. If a person tries to suggest her to try over new experiences she will decline and says, "No. I don't think so. It's not my cup of tea" (Moyes, 2012: 20).

Things change after she meets Will Traynor, a quadriplegic guy. He has made Louisa understand that life is too precious to be wasted on. As a result, Louisa starts to focus on her personal life by improving her skills. Louisa gradually changes herself into a better person. She begins to have another interest and activity beside working. She will spend the spare time that she has to do a lot of things that are beneficial for her. We can see how much Louisa transforms herself from this quotation:

"I set about decorating, painting for an hour a night after I came home from work, and at the end of the week even Dad had to admit I'd done a really good job. He stared for a bit at my cutting in, fingered the blinds that I had to put up myself, and put a hand on my shoulder. "This job has been the making of you, Lou" (Moyes, 2012: 223).

4.1.2 Analysis of Settings

The setting of time of *Me Before You* happens in 2009. The story starts when Louisa is on the way home from work, "2009. There are 158 steps between the bus stop and home, but it can stretch to 180 if you aren't in hurry, like maybe if you're wearing platform shoes" (Moyes, 2012: 6).

Me Before You generally sets a place in England, Mauritius, Switzerland, and Paris. The first setting of place in this novel is England. Louisa Clark lives in a smalltown in England. It is a lovely yet dull town, but, in the summer the

tourists arrive in this town. They come in their expensive cars wearing their waterproof overcoats and visit The Stortford Castle.

“Here, in our little town, it was the return of the tourists. At first, a tentative trickle, stepping off trains or out of cars in brightly coloured waterproof coats, clutching their guidebooks and National Trust membership; then, as the air warmed, and the season crept forwards, disgorged alongside the belch and hiss of their coaches, clogging up the high street, Americans, Japanese and packs of foreign schoolchildren were dotted around the perimeter of the castle” (Moyes, 2012: 179).

In England, there are some places which are shown. Granta House seems to be one of the places that is frequently mentioned. Granta house is the home of the Traynor’s, who owns The Stortford Castle. It is an elegantly furnished home located on the other side of the Castle as described in the next statement:

“I had thought the house might be a bit like a care home, all hoists and wipe-clean surfaces. But this was like one of those scarily expensive hotels, steeped in old money, with well-loved things that looked valuable in their own right” (Moyes, 2012: 26-27).

Granta House is a significant place since Louisa starts her step to get the better life from this place. She works as a carer for Will Traynor, a quadriplegic guy that makes her learn to find the meaning of life.

The next setting is the Republic of Mauritius. Mauritius is an archipelago in the Indian ocean on the southeast coast of the African continent. It is a green flourishing area with an open ocean encircled by the volcanos, as shown in this quotation, “I saw that the island was lush and green, fringed with the acres of sugar cane crops, the sea is visible like a strip of mercury through the volcanic hills” (Moyes, 2012: 409). Mauritius is the place where Louisa and Will spent their first holiday. In this island, love and suffering occur to Louisa at the same time.

The next written place in this novel is Zurich, Switzerland. It is the world's first Dignitas centre located on the industrial area. Dignitas centre is a place where anyone who suffers from terminally illness or incurable diseases commits a legal suicide under the qualified Swiss's doctors. The residence of Dignitas itself is a simple house with one plain room and large fish pond at the entrance as cited below :

“What I didn't expect was to be driven through an industrial estate until I arrived at what I remark-ably like an ordinary house, surrounded by factories and weirdly, a football pitch. I walked across decking, past a goldfish pond, and then I was in” (Moyes, 2012: 466).

Switzerland is the place where Louisa comes to see Will in his final day at Dignitas centre. This place becomes important because this is the place where Louisa deals with the suffering in her life. She discovers that the worst condition even holds the meaning of life.

The ultimate place in this story is Le Marais, a district which is located in the heart of France. Most citizens who live in Le Marais are Jewish. It is a place where anyone can explore foods and fashions at the same time. Le Marais is a city that Louisa has been dreamt of since she was young. as can be seen from the following lines: “I could see myself in that cafe. I was there, at the table, maybe admiring a new pair of French shoes, purchased in a chic little boutique, or picking at a pastry with Parisian red fingernails” (Moyes, 2012: 252). Le Marais is a place where Louisa stays after the carer's contract with the Traynor's has been over. After Will died, Louisa goes to France to continue her life. Here, Louisa with her newfound-skills is starting a new life as an independent woman.

The social setting environment also has a big role in this story. Most of *Me Before You*'s story set places in England whose citizens consist of the lower class and the upper class. The Traynor's is the representation of a wealthy family. The house, where they live as described in the previous paragraph, is a luxurious home with all of the well-furnished equipment. The way the Traynor's behave and dress is based on the upper classes do. The members of the Traynor also have a well-prospect job and glamorous lifestyle. The following lines of Camilla Traynor, Will's mother, describes her whole life:

"My life was a fairly structured one-an ordinary one, by modern standards. I had been married for almost thirty-seven years, I raised two children, I kept my career, helped out at the school, the PTA, and joined the bench once the children didn't need me any more" (Moyes, 2012: 135).

Meanwhile, the representation of lower class is Louisa. It is proven by the fact that Louisa is coming from a family who are living in a state of financial anxiety.

"Dad was murmurings at home about debts and the juggling of credit cards. Dad had his car written off by an uninsured driver two years previously, and somehow this had been enough for the whole teetering edifice that was my parents' finances to finally collapse. My modest wages had been a little rock of housekeeping money, enough to help see the family through from week to week" (Moyes, 2012: 13).

It also can be seen from the house of where Louisa lives. Unlike The Granta House with its clean and well-furnished furniture, Louisa's home is mostly decorated by an-ancient wallpaper and her nephew's arts.

"I stood in the Kitchen, suddenly conscious of our tiny, shabby house with its 1980s wallpaper and dented kitchen cupboards. Will's home was elegantly furnished, its things sparse and beautiful. Our house looked as if 90 per cent of its contents came from the local pound shop. Thomas's dog-eared paintings covered every spare surface of wall" (Moyes, 2012: 226).

4.1.3 Analysis of Conflicts

Conflict is one of the important elements that builds up the story. It describes the struggle of the character with herself or with another characters. In this chapter, the writer will analyze the conflict that Louisa Clark has: the internal conflicts and the external conflicts.

4.1.3.1 Internal conflicts

There are two internal conflicts in *Me Before You*. The first conflict appears when Louisa has revealed the Traynor's secret. From their private discussion, she knows that Will is going to kill himself through Dignitas. This secret makes Louisa leave the job. She feels dumb for witnessing this news. She hates the Traynor's family, especially Will's mother, for employing her as a helper whose job is cheering a man who is going to kill himself.

“I was angry with her and angry with Will. Angry with them for letting me engage in a facade. I was angry for all the times I had sat and thought about how to make things better for him comfortable, or happy. But mostly I felt filled with horror. I was haunted by what I now knew” (Moyes, 2012: 144).

The second internal conflict occurs when Louisa is failed to persuade Will Traynor. On the last day they spent in Mauritius, she feels disappointed to know that Will does not change his mind to commit suicide. His decision hurts Louisa very much. At this moment, she is mad at herself. Many things are not right and unlike what she wants. Her plan to show that his life as quadriplegic person is still worth living is useless. It is explained in the following words, “A million silent arguments rattled around my head: Why is this not enough for you? Why am I not

enough for you? Why could you not have confided in me? If we'd had more time, would this have been different?" (Moyes, 2012: 432).

4.1.3.2 External conflicts

Louisa experiences a lot of external conflicts in her life. The first conflict happens between Louisa and her younger sister, Katrina Clark. From the beginning of the story, Louisa does not like Katrina, as cited from this words: "There were many ways in which I disliked my sister. A few years ago I could have shown you whole scribbled lists I had written on that very topic" (Moyes, 2012: 160). Katrina's presence in Louisa's life makes her feel envious. She does not like the fact that everyone else is praising her sister's intelligence: "I hated the fact that for my whole school career teachers insisted on telling me in hushed tones how bright she was, as if her brilliance wouldn't mean that by default I lived in a permanent shadow" (Moyes, 2012: 160). Louisa also dislikes the fact that her parents also give Katrina a better treatment. They give Katrina and her illegitimate son a bigger room. While on the other side, Louisa is sleeping in the box-room which is too small for her to fit in. Those envious feeling sometimes leads Louisa to quarrel with her sister. When Louisa has a problem in her job, she blames it on her sister. Louisa says to Katrina, "It was my sister's plight that had got us into this mess, after all." Years of resent-ment began to ooze out of me. "We've all got to stick at the jobs we hate so that little Katrina can fulfill her bloody ambitions" (Moyes, 2012: 158).

The external conflict also occurs between Louisa and her boyfriend, Patrick. Louisa has been in a relationship with Patrick for nearly seven years, but

the conflict appears in the fifth month she is working as a carer for Will. Patrick does not like Louisa's job since he gets less time from her. In many ways, Patrick distrusts his girlfriend and has a suspicious feeling whenever seeing Louisa and Will stay close. On the other hand, Louisa somehow feels that she might not love her boyfriend although her relationship has been for so long. Louisa does support Patrick's job as a marathon man but his obsession makes her get bored. As reflected by this statement, "It was the fitter he got, the more obsessed by his own shape he became, the less interested he was in mine" (Moyes, 2012: 115). At the end of the story, the conflict is over when the couple decides to break up.

The last external conflict arises between Louisa and her mother, Josie. The conflict appears when Louisa tells her parents about the Traynor's secret. Josie is upset hearing the secret. She has a debate with Louisa. She warns Louisa not to be involved in the Traynor's life since Dignitas can affect through her whole life-career. Josie asks Louisa to take the interview that she gets from the college rather than to support Will Traynor. Louisa, on the contrary, still insists to see Will in Switzerland. She leaves home by saying this word to her mother, "So yes. I'm going. I don't need you to look out for me or understand. I'll deal with it. But, I'm going to Switzerland – whatever either of you says" (Moyes, 2012: 460).

4.2. Analysis of Extrinsic elements

In this part, the writer will analyze Louisa Clark's struggle to pursue the meaning of life. The analysis will be divided into two chapters, the first is Louisa's existential vacuum and the second is Louisa's meaningful life. This discussion is written based on Logotherapy theory by Viktor Emil Frankl.

4.2.1 Louisa's Existential Vacuum

During the process of finding the meaning of life, Louisa cannot avoid herself from facing troubles and problems. The difficulties that Louisa is facing have the great impact on her existence. Those problems are called as the existential vacuum. However, the existential vacuum will be a starting point for Louisa to search the meaning of her life.

In chapter 12 of *Me Before You*, it is revealed that Louisa's existential vacuum is caused by the fear of the past traumatic event. Six years ago, at the age of twenty, Louisa had a good life. She had a good job and also had no financial responsibilities. She started to find out who she was by doing a lot of things that she wanted to do.

"I can tell you the exact day I stopped being fearless. I was twenty and would meet Patrick in less than three months. We were enjoying one of those rare summers of utter freedom- no financial responsibility, no debts, no time owing to anybody. I had a seasonal job and all the hours in the world to practice my make-up, put on heels that made my father wince, and just generally work out who I was" (Moyes, 2012: 201).

Everything is good and fine up until Louisa has an idea to have a party with her colleagues. She gets drunk and goes to the castle under the control of wine. Louisa then experiences a sexual harassment in the maze of the Stortford Castle done by a group of men. The sexual harassment can be seen from this quotation:

"There you go," one of them said as his hand grapped my arm. "Come and give me a kiss and I'll show you the way out." His voice was soft and drawling.

"I just... I just want you to show me how to get out" My voice sounded pathetic, even to me.

"Just one." He moves closer.

I felt his mouth on mine, a hand squeezing my thigh. I dont know what I said then. Someone had my arm. I heard the laughter, felt a hand in my

hair, another mouth on mine, insistent, invasive, and then... I was passed out.....” (Moyes, 2012: 322).

After having the sexual harassment in the maze of the Castle, Louisa is haunted by the fears that sit of her mind. As a result, she cannot have her normal life back because of that accident. That sexual harassment is the reason why Louisa ends up leading a meaninglessness life that keeps her secure.

“I filled it with their laughter, their bodies and their words. I filled it with my own humiliation. I saw their faces every time I went anywhere beyond the town, and Patrick and Mum and Dad and my small life had been just fine for me, with all their problems and limitation. They had let me feel safe” (Moyes, 2012: 325-326).

In addition to the reason behind the existential vacuum. The writer wants to add the explanation about the indication of a meaninglessness life. The first evidence is that Louisa cannot understand the quality of her life. As a young woman of twenty-six years old, Louisa should have known what kind of life that she wants to live. However, in this story, she is portrayed as a woman who cannot comprehend the life that she is living, “I was twenty-six years old and I wasn’t really sure what I was” (Moyes, 2012: 23). The word “I wasn’t really sure what I was” indicates that Louisa does not know herself well since she cannot give a single word to describe herself.

Another quotation below also symbolises Louisa’s meaninglessness life. It is noted from the short conversation between Camilla Traynor and Louisa Clark on the first day of Louisa’s employment career.

“Do you have aspirations for a career? Would this be a stepping stone to something else? Do you have a professional dream that you wish to pursue?”

I looked at her blankly.

Was this some kind of trick question?

“I ... I haven't really thought that far. Since I lost my job. I just –' I swallowed. 'I just want to work again.”

It sounded feeble. What kind of person came to an interview without even knowing what she wanted to do? Mrs Traynor's expression suggested she thought the same thing” (Moyes, 2012: 29).

From this quotation, it can be inferred that Louisa is having no direction in her life. She finds no reply at the moment when Camila Traynor is trying to ask her about the goals in her life. The sentence “I ... I haven't really thought that far. Since I lost my job. I just –' I swallowed. 'I just want to work again” means that she has undergone her life well by working hard, but underneath it all, she is having no significant purposes behind her effort.

The meaninglessness in Louisa's life is strengthened by the fact that she does not have any particular activities in her life. It is explained by the dialogue that happens between Louisa and Will Traynor at the Granta House, as quoted below:

“And what else?”

“What do you mean, what else?”

“Hobbies? Travelling? Places you like to go?”

He was beginning to sound like my old careers teacher.

I tried to think. “I don't really have any hobbies. I read a bit. I like clothes.”

“Handy,” he said, dryly.

“You asked. I'm not really a hobby person.” My voice had become strangely defensive. “I don't do much, okay? I work and then I go home” (Moyes, 2012: 85).

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that Louisa has no passion in life. The lacks of goals in her life make Louisa try to fill her emptiness by not doing anything. In other words, Louisa has wasted her life by not doing any useful things on the spare time.

4.2.2 Louisa's Meaningful Life

Louisa's meaningful life is divided into three main discussion. Those are Louisa's creative value, Louisa's experiential value and Louisa's attitudinal value.

4.2.2.1 Louisa's Creative Value

To value the meaning of life, Louisa is trying to accomplish the first way of discovering meaning of life, which is by working or doing something in life.

Based on the story, the writer notes there are two jobs that Louisa has ever done. The first is when she works as an employee at The Buttered Bun Tea Shop. A positive attitude is reflected in Louisa's manner since the first day of her employment contract. She loves her job more than anything in her life. Louisa is clearly doing her job with all her heart and soul. She likes the costumers, the owner, and also the atmosphere of The Buttered Bun Tea Shop. She also loves the sense of arriving early and preparing everything before the cafe is open.

“The day had started like any other day. Everyone I knew hated Monday mornings, but I never minded them. I liked arriving early at The Buttered Bun, firing up the huge tea urn in the corner, bringing the crates of milk and bread from backyard and chatting to Frank as we prepared to open” (Moyes, 2012: 10).

Louisa's job is beneficial for herself and her family. The daily life as a woman who works behind the cafe-table makes Louisa understand the pattern of life. She has witnessed over a lot of problems and pleasures from her customers. At this moment, she starts to understand the meaning of life as expressed in the following lines:

“I watched relationships begin and end across those tables, children transfered between divorces, the guilty relief of those parents who couldn't face cooking, and the secret pleasure of pensioners at a fried breakfast. All human life came through, and most of them shared a few words with me,

trading jokes or comments over the mugs of steaming tea. Dad always said he never knew what was going to come out of my mouth next, but in the cafe it didn't matter"(Moyes, 2012: 11).

To take care and be a companionship of a quadriplegic guy named Will Traynor is the next job that Louisa takes. She is employed by Camilla Traynor because she believes that Louisa's positive attitude will lighten up Will's gloomy days.

Although at the first few days Louisa is having the *adaptation problems*, as the time passes she starts to love her job: "For weeks I had wished that my working involved some escape from that house. Now, I would have done anything just to stay indoors" (Moyes, 2012: 86). Louisa finds pleasure when she creates a plan for Will Traynor. She puts an effort to change upon Will's Dignitas plan by preparing a serial outing project for him. This project makes Louisa feels useful and also beneficial to the others. Will is greatly profited by Louisa's project, his life becomes cheerful and well maintained, besides that this project is also a thing that fills Louisa's activities.

"Now, however, I felt oddly restless and dislocated. I missed having a reason to get up early, a purpose to my day. I took me half a morning to work out that this time could be useful. I went to the library and began to research. I looked up every website about quadriplegics that I could find and worked out things we could do when Will was better. I wrote lists , adding to each entry the equipment or things I might need to consider for each event" (Moyes, 2012: 267).

Working as a carer also makes Louisa understand the meaning of life. She reveals that spending time living in a wheelchair is not comfortable enough. Louisa has observed how much pains and health problems may threaten Will's life. She gets to know that life and death are something that is inseparable. As

shown by this statement, “There are normal hours, and then there are invalid hours, where time stalls and slips, where life-real life- seems to exist at one remove” (Moyes, 2012: 105).

4.2.2.2 Louisa’s Experiential Value

Louisa values the meaning of life by encountering and experiencing something in her life. Taking and giving love are the central point in this value.

Louisa’s first experiential value is love which comes from her family. Although her family is living in the financial anxiety, Louisa never feels a lack of love. She has a mother who will do everything to protect her family, “I would fight for you two, for Thomas, until my dying breath” (Moyes, 2012: 449). She also has a younger sister who is always on her side everytime she has a problem. Louisa does not feel lonely anymore because she is surrounded by people that give her love and the affection. It is a normal condition because every person needs figures that can make him/her feel secure.

Louisa gets her second’s experiential value when she runs her job as a carer in the Granta House. At this place, she meets a quadriplegic guy named Will Traynor. Will’s presence in Louisa’s life makes her life more meaningful. He gives her a great sense of love that she never gets from Patrick, her ex-boyfriend. His love completes her existence as a human being. As Will says to Louisa in their first holiday at Mauritius, “Sometimes, Clark, you are pretty much the only things that makes me want to get up in the morning” (Moyes, 2012: 350).

Louisa’s relationship with Will Traynor brings a great perspective to her to learning the meaning of life. During her employment contract, there are lots of

values which are covered. Louisa meets the right person who gives her the direction to go through many phases of life.

The first thing that Louisa gets studied from Will is the way to enjoy the life. Louisa has learned from him to use every moment in life wisely. While we are living in a healthy condition, we should try to please ourselves by doing and learning something that entertains us. Will says, “I worked out what would make me happy, and I worked out what I wanted to do, and I trained myself to do the job that would make those two things happen” (Moyes, 2012: 264).

The next value that Louisa learns is the willingness to take the risk. As described in the previous discussion, Louisa is portrayed as someone who seems un-ambitious. She cuts herself from a new experience because she feels afraid of someone else’s reaction. Basically, Louisa lives a life which is full of limitations. Seeing this condition, Will suggests her to push up her limit. He teaches Louisa to take every chance in life since life only happens once, as stated in the next statement, “You only get one life. It’s actually your duty to live it as fully as possible” (Moyes, 2012: 252).

Will Traynor also tells Louisa not to regret everything that she is going to do right now since memory is the only thing we can not get dismissed. He says, “I will never, ever regret the things I’ve done. Because most days, if you’re stuck in one of these, all you have are the places in your memory that you can go to” (Moyes, 2012: 266).

After learning about love and the life-lessons, Louisa wants to pay back what Will has done to her. She gives supports to Will in the final moment of his

life. She comes to Dignitas centre and gives the affection for Will, as illustrated by this quotation: “So I held him, Will Traynor, ex-City Whiz kid, ex-stunt diver, traveller, lover. I held him close and said nothing, all the while telling him silently that he was loved” (Moyes, 2012: 472-473). This action she takes based on the love she feels for Will. Louisa wants to share this love for Will because it is the only thing she can do for now. She learns that love is the important thing in human’s relationship. If she loves someone, it is her job to stay close to him through the good and bad condition.

4.2.1.3 Louisa’s Attitudinal Value toward Suffering

Louisa experiences lots of suffering and uses those sufferings to pursue the meaning of life.

The first sorrow happens to Louisa when she loses her job in the cafeteria due to the bankruptcy. Losing a job becomes a hardblow for her because she loves her job more than anything in her life. She feels burdened to live as a jobless woman since working is the only way to keep the finance of her family balanced. She states:

“Unemployment had been a concept, something droningly referred to on the news in relation to shipyards or car factories. I had never considered that you might miss a job like you missed a limb- a constants, reflexive thing. I hadn’t thought that as well as the obvious fears about money, and your future, losing your job make you feel inadequate, and bit useless. That it would be harder to get up in the morning than when you were rudely shocked into consciousness by the alarm” (Moyes, 2012: 20).

Louisa then starts to accept the reality of becoming un-employment. She begins to understand that losing a job is a part of life-cycle. If she spends the rest of her life by working as a waitress, she will never make a better progress. She

says, "I've got to look at the positive side. I knew I couldn't stay at that place forever. I want to move upwards" (Moyes, 2012: 15). Those understanding leads her to claim herself in a Jobseeker's allowance and finds a better position. Louisa then continues her life by working as a carer and companionship for a disabled man. She has been contracted by Camilla Traynor to work as a private carer for her son in six months.

Another suffering appears in the middle of her employment contract. She knows that Will Traynor, the quadriplegic-guy whom she is working with, is going to die overseas through Dignitas. It is proved by the following quotation that explains how much Louisa is suffered from Will's secret:

"I was haunted by what I now knew. How could you live each day knowing that you were simply whiling away the days until your own death? How could this man whose skin I had felt that morning under my fingers-warm, and alive- choose to just extinguish himself? How could it be that, with every-one's consent, in six months' time that the same skin would be decaying under the ground?" (Moyes, 2012: 145).

Louisa is angry with the Traynor's for hiding such a huge secret from her. She feels dumb if she recalls the moment when she puts so much effort to cherish Will Traynor. Louisa then leaves this job since she does not want to be involved in the suicidal attempt.

Two days later, Louisa starts to change her mind. By the time Camilla Traynor comes to her home, Louisa starts to understand that Will's parents are doing their best to change Will's decision. Therefore, she makes up her mind to work again as a carer for Will. She wants to show that life as a quadriplegic person is still worth living. As her sister suggests to Louisa, she begins to plan several activities and an outing trip for Will Traynor.

However, Louisa's suffering is not over yet. Four months later, she deals again with Will Traynor's decision. At the Mauritius island, Will tells Louisa that living in a wheelchair is not a life that he wants. No matter what happens, he is going to commit a suicide through Dignitas. This decision hurts Louisa's heart. Louisa cannot bear the thought of losing Will. She blames herself for not being the one who can change his mind: "And it was my failure for Will too, I had failed to persuade him. I had offered him everything I could, including myself, and nothing I had shown him had convinced him a reason to keep living" (Moyes, 2012: 453).

By the end of the story, Louisa has learned that suffering is the part of life that has to be faced wholeheartedly. Louisa recalls the memories that she has spent with Will Traynor in six months. She has learned many things from Will that eventually makes her life better. Therefore, she begins to accept Will's decision. She starts to understand that Dignitas might be the right thing for Will. She cannot change a person if he does not want to change. The best thing she can do this time is support him. As a partner for Will, it is her job to stick up with him in any condition. She flies to Switzerland to meet Will Traynor: "I've done more, lived more, in the last six months than in the last twenty seven-years of my life. So if he wants me to go to Switzerland, then yes, I'm going to. Whatever the outcome" (Moyes, 2012: 461).

5. CONCLUSION

The analysis of *Me Before You* shows that the main character, Louisa Clark, is the example of a character that experiences many periods of life that eventually makes her understand the meaning of life. The writer finds that there are a lot of values that Louisa gets which match with Viktor Frankl's Logotherapy concept, in terms of how to get the meaning of life. To value the meaning of life, Louisa deals with the existential vacuum and the three philosophical pathways to meaning; creative value, experiential value, and attitudinal value toward suffering.

Louisa Clark experiences an existential vacuum in her life that causes her to live a meaninglessness life, a life without any significant directions and goals. The meaninglessness life is caused by a sexual harassment that she has experienced at the age of twenty. However, that existential vacuum will be a starting point for Louisa to find the meaning of her life.

Louisa starts to get the meaning of life in creative value by working as a waitress. Through the jobs that Louisa has done, she learns that meaning of life is reflected in her attitude while doing the jobs. By loving the jobs, Louisa feels her job is very beneficial for herself and the others. Louisa also tries to pursue the meaning of life by working as a private carer for a quadriplegia guy, named Will Traynor. As a private carer, she observes that living as a disabled person gives her a deep understanding about the essence of the meaning of life.

Louisa gets her meaning of life in experiential value by experiencing something or encountering someone. Love is the main point in this value. Louisa gets love and affection from her family. Besides, she also gets a lot of love and

life-lesson from Will Traynor when she works as a carer for him. As Louisa learns about love and the life lesson, she tries to give love and the affection for Will Traynor. She also supports Will in his final day in Switzerland.

Louisa also values the meaning of life through the attitude that she takes toward the suffering. She experiences a lot of sufferings in her life. It starts with losing a job, Will Traynor's Dignitas's secret, to the death of Will Traynor in Switzerland. Through these sufferings, Louisa learns how to accept every condition that happens in her life.

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