

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the novel Veronika Decides to Die by Paulo Coelho, I conclude that the theme is 'One must make decision on the basis of personal interest and not of social expectation so as to gain happiness in life' through the life of Veronika as the protagonist of the novel in her pursuit of her happiness which can only be reached through choices of personal interest and not based on the judgement of society.

Furthermore, suicide is the alternative choice that Veronika chooses to end her suffering in among the dilemmatic choices and to get her existentialism value, she has to face the choices between confirming and going against the society which cause her dilemmatic situation in making the choice. She has been tormented by her helplessness in submitting to social expectations and how to get happiness in her way. She realizes that conformity can only bring dissatisfaction, and she is not pleased with the life she is leading which is against her wish. As a result, this condition creates void in her view of the meaning of life. It happens because of the disabilities of the protagonist to face pressure from the society and

to go against the existing value of the society. So in view of existentialism, the effect is that the individual loses his or her existence while her anxiety clouds her in finding the ultimate justification for the choice that she must make.

And here there is a pleasure that Veronika gets in her personal choice by the satisfaction of her desires through masturbating which is sinful and she breaks all the values of the society. In my opinion for Veronika's happiness can only reach her wish and need in her life, if Veronika has managed to reach that by making that personal decision of committing suicide even if it costs her life and her sexual act which is forbidden but it makes her satisfied.

From Veronika's life, I find that there is an authoritative society that makes someone be limited in making her choice. So in such society, there is a choice but the option is limited and this makes people in the society be left with limited options. Authoritative society has a purpose to make the people unable to express and appreciate different values in the uniformed society. This purpose is to minimize people from having different ideas or wishes in the society so it is easier to organize people to gain certain goal or purpose. On the contrary, individualism promotes individual freedom and causes more chances for than in a perfect uniformed order society. In other words, individualism constructs people with various thoughts, ideas, and beliefs which make it hard to uniform based on the existing social value. That is the reason why authoritative society rejects such values. These people will be rejected one way or another so they cannot contribute nor make anything significant to the society and make them feel alienated and useless, and it will come to the stage where one will either submit

to the will of the society, joining them with their uniformed value or persisting on their individualism and reaching a stronger and more solidified satisfaction. So in analyzing this novel, I have found that authoritative society is not positive for individual life because it will create discrimination in forms of pressure and alienation to individualism and the contradictory agenda of the individualism to society which is seen as hindrance to the development of the society in fulfilling their vision.

And also through this novel, a mental hospital is used as a symbol of absence of authority for the individual who has pressure from society so here people can get freedom of value as they need. Furthermore, the writer wants to show the society that cannot accept differences in forcing individuals having to try to fit into patterns of society and become meaningless in terms of existentialism of freedom of choice. As a result, the society will find ways to alienate these individuals by creating an isolated place as a media to reject the people who have different thoughts and ideas from them. Our present society still does have such discriminative tendency toward individuals, if we cannot accept someone who has different behavior we will isolate the people into the place where we can cure his or her individual-assumed mistaken or weird acts and thoughts. In Veronika's society, these individuals are isolated into the mental hospital as a symbol of rejection. In the mental hospital, the rejected people interestingly find happiness through their absolute freedom that they can free to act and think because there are freedom from restriction and authority. The mental hospital in Villette has zero authority as there is no exact value and rule

controlling them in contrast to the authoritative society. In the novel, Villette turns out to be a sanctuary for these outcasts for they can utilize their given freedom of choice and act without any restrictive force that threatens them with undesirable consequences.

The writer wants to emphasize that the individual has the right of expressing his or her own acts and wills and the society cannot underestimate and judge the people based on his or her decision because the betterment of life is not based on the judgement of others. Instead, we must accept differences in many subjects in life because I think that is what makes life more colourful and attractive. So overall, the author has successfully presented an existentialism theme to the readers of this literary work about freedom of choice in life and the satisfaction to be reached by fulfilling it. And I think through the novel Veronika Decides to Die, Paulo Coelho successfully reveals the themes of 'One must make decision on the basis of personal interest and not of social expectation so as to gain happiness in life' through the four stages of Veronika's life and her individual freedom of choice.