

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the novel, I am of the opinion that Veronika's inner conflicts are caused by her unfulfilled sexual desires that are forbidden by society. Her sexual desire in her id is powerful and wants to be gratified but her moral standard, which she interprets in her superego is also powerful that forbids her sexual desires to be gratified. Therefore, her ego is unable to manage the conflict between these two opposing demands, which makes her feel so depressed that she attempts to commit suicide. Being saved from death, her wish to die starts to deteriorate. By all her experiences such as letting her hatred out and fulfilling her sexual desires, or in other words by indulging herself, as the resolution of her conflicting desires between her id and superego, Veronika appreciates her life better than before. She eventually becomes interested in exploring herself, regretting her suicidal actions, letting herself love a man, and realizing that every second in her life is priceless. In relation to the theme which has been mentioned before, I can see here that by negotiating her repressed desire, Veronika can appreciate her life.

Analyzing the inner conflict through psychoanalysis indicates that I have to find the beginning of this social phenomenon. I consider the foundation that triggers Veronika's inner conflict can be indicated in the phenomenon of Elektra complex, when sexuality and hostility are rooted.

From Veronika's experience, I can see that Paulo Coelho gives a new idea that our fulfillment of our desire can affect our mental state and appreciation of our life. Because of the morality in society, it is possible that people may have to express their desire in a socially acceptable way. Veronika is unable to express her sexual desire as she is not married and interprets that any sexual activation outside marriage is considered taboo by society. Her environment also influences her interpretation of the social prohibition, whose impact can be seen in Villette. Her ego supports her id to be satisfied as she thinks that she can do anything she wants.

Having analyzed the protagonist's inner conflict which reveals the theme of the story, I also find that the author of the novel may have a purpose to satirize the society. Related to the novel, the asylum where Veronika is transferred is a place which proves to be a place of societal rejection toward people who disobey the rule. Before she commits suicide, while she is swallowing the four packs of sleeping pills, she writes her country Slovenia proudly in a note to answer a quiz from a magazine. This feeling is ambivalent for the reason that in her deepest feeling she hates her country. It is also ironic that Veronika appreciates her life in the mental institution.

Apart from religion which deals with human and his God, social taboos are constructed by society and not by a certain religion, not even Catholicism.

The religion only forbids suicide, masturbation and sexual activities outside marriage but does not consider those activities taboos. Sin becomes the compensation of those activities and can only be noticed when people die. It is intangible and again it is a matter between the individual and his God. Different from the religion, the compensation of those activities considered social taboos in society are severe penalties, such as embarrassment, shame, and rudeness which are more obvious than sin so that the effects of the penalties can be felt directly. The victim of this kind of thought is Veronika, and she separates herself from society by indulging herself to appreciate life better.

Incidentally, I am also unable to find appropriate theory to broaden my judgment about Veronika's feminine nature during the analysis. For those who want to continue the study, I find several feminism aspects in the story. For instance, the fact that Veronika ends her life by swallowing sleeping pills is stated to be more feminine by her, and it is strengthened by Wortman's Psychology that 'women usually use less effective methods, such as sleeping pills.'(1992: 502) Another example can be found in her mother's effort to construct Veronika according to the culture in the society, especially the division of job based on gender. Perhaps it will be interesting if the psychoanalytic feminism can be applied, particularly in the process of Elektra Complex as Freud is a sexist analyst. Last but not least, hopefully, by reading this thesis readers can understand the purpose of the story and the ideas that Paulo Coelho wants to convey through Veronika's inner conflict and its outcome by using psychoanalysis theory.