

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the characteristics of the protagonist, Olivia, in this chapter I would like to draw a conclusion.

Olivia is a woman who suffers from Schizophrenia. I think the cause of her becoming schizophrenic is her failure to fulfil what the society requires. It causes the depression and indirectly affects her mental state. The environmental factors force her to adjust herself to act according to what the dominant people believe and do. It compels her to meet their expectations although it is hard. It becomes a burden for her mind as well, so she becomes suppressed. The pressure becomes greater, especially because Olivia is a self-conscious, “The stress vulnerability model theory of schizophrenia states that every individual has a certain vulnerability to schizophrenia which is determined by a combination of biological, psychological and environmental factors. A stressful or traumatic incident can sometimes trigger the symptoms of schizophrenia in particularly vulnerable people” (“Causes of Schizophrenia”).

Olivia also starts a conversation that will lead to a fight with him. In my opinion, I think that is the reason why Olivia cannot control her emotion. It is her illness that has caused the emotional disorders.

The protagonist also becomes a pessimistic person. In my opinion, it is connected with the changes of brain that cause the disorder and imbalance in her brain. One who suffers Schizophrenia experiences some disorders in thought and emotion because the level of dopamine, “a neurotransmitter, [which the] brain uses to transmit information from one brain to cell to another”(“Psychosis”) is too high, so the brain becomes more sensitive because of the effect of dopamine itself. Automatically, it affects the protagonist’s reactions when she knows that she suffers from Schizophrenia. She becomes more sensitive about her hearing and becomes a pessimistic, thinking that she will never recover from her illness. Dopamine “is thought to play an important role in incentive motivation and acts as part of our internal reward system. Any dysfunction in the reward system could explain low motivation” (“Health Central”).

In my opinion, after Olivia undergoes some medical treatments in a psychiatric hospital and after she has been introduced to Christianity, her characteristics change in positive ways. Olivia becomes optimistic, brave and self-controlled. Olivia thinks differently after she becomes a Christian. She learns how to be grateful for her condition; besides, she thinks in an optimistic way so that she can recover from her illness. Olivia’s desire to recover can be seen when she has the bravery to ring some psychiatrists and asks for double medication in the hospital. She tries to endure the medication, although it is hard because of the effects of the medication that cause her mind to become dull so that she cannot think clearly.

Olivia becomes more confident in fostering friendships between patients at the hospital and becomes a member of a church. During her medical treatment in the hospital, Olivia tries to balance her mind. When delusions and hallucinations attack her,

she overcomes it by praying to God because she believes that God never leaves her and always gives her strength to overcome her problems.

In A Battle Within, the purpose of the author in creating such a character is because Macfarlane wants to share with her readers about what she has experienced and how she overcomes the battle within herself. The author wants to share with the readers through Olivia's experience, so as to encourage her readers so that they would not feel down when they are faced with problems in life but to still believe in God, "Life is not all black, not even only a battle, though it may seem that way at times. There are beauties still. The illness is not all there is to it. There is love and laughter and sharing, or even the hope of them." (Macfarlane 125)