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**THE CHARACTER OF LOUISA CLARK'S IN THE *ME BEFORE YOU* MOVIE: AN  
INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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**ABSTRACT**

The objective of this research was to find out the character of Louisa Clark in the *Me Before You* movie based on individual psychology by Alfred Adler. This research uses the qualitative method to analyze the data. The source data of the research focus on captures from the movie, actions, and sounds or dialogues that describe the character of Louisa Clark. This research showed six principles: fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, social interest, style of life, and creative self.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Literature is a language instrument expressing all forms of human activity in the form of imagination or with actual data displayed in writing or orally. Literature can be imaginative or with accurate data simultaneously because literature is non-imaginative and non-fiction. The imagination of the author also produces literature. Literature is not just a document of facts. It is not just the collection of events that may happen in real life. Literature is an expression of human expression in the form of written or oral works based on thoughts, opinions, experiences, feelings in imaginative forms, reflections of reality, or original data wrapped in aesthetic packaging through language media.

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The above understanding is reinforced (Sumardjo & Saini, 1997), who argue that literature is an expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, passions, and beliefs in the form of a concrete picture that evokes charm with language instruments.

One of the literary works that are still popular today is the novel. A novel is a literary work in the form of prose that has a long story and a detailed and complete series. Novel writers usually try their best to provide stories with implied messages that are usually not immediately realized by readers, such as a picture of the reality of life or moral messages through the stories in the novel. In a literary work, the author can freely write about various conflicts, even those not found in real daily life. Even though it is an imaginative work, the author can display social phenomena freely. The author can also arrange it in aesthetic writing to make it more appealing to the readers.

It is not a new thing if there find a movie adapted from novels and lately, more and more, we see the movie industry in various countries adapting a literary novel into a movie. This is due to the large number of novel readers who attract movie directors to change the writings in the novel into actions played by actors and actresses. One of the movies was adapted from the novel *Me Before You*. This bestselling novel by Jojo Moyes is a romantic genre that was first published on January 5, 2012, in England. With the same name, *Me Before You* was made into a 2016 movie directed by Thea Sharrock and produced by Karen Rosenfelt and Alison Owen. It tells the story of an ordinary girl with a unique appearance who is forced to be fired from the local cafe where she works because the cafe goes bankrupt. Armed with a lack of skills, she goes to a job agency to get a new job, and he gets a job to take care of a wealthy disabled person from the Traynor family. A job that does not really require expertise within six months with a decent salary.

From the background above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the movie *Me Before You* with an individual psychological by Alferd Adler first because this movie is a movie that has meaning, as well as a moral message that can be applied in real life. Second, the movie is an adaptation of Jojo Moyes' bestselling novel directed by Thea Sharrock, produced by Karen Rosenfelt and Alison Owen, and released in 2016. Third, it portrayed the main character, Louisa Clark who struggled for her life.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative method. The data to be collected comes from dialogue

and captures from scenes from the *Me Before You* movie. (Moleong, 2007) defines descriptive qualitative research as research that aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects. It is more suitable and suitable to be used for researching matters relating to research on the subject's behavior, attitudes, motivations, perceptions, and actions.

The source data of the research is from the *Me Before You* movie with a research focus on captures from the movie, actions, and sounds or dialogues that describe the character of Louisa Clark.

The researcher collects the data through several steps, first is by watching the movie repeatedly. Second, marking and capturing the movie scenes and dialogues. Third, find the materials of related studies that will be used to analyze. Then fourth, analyzing the data. Fifth, organizing the collection of the data into classification.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

The problem that will be discussed here is the character of Louisa, which will be analyzed in terms of an individual psychological approach to the theory by Alfred Adler with six principles, namely, fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, social interest, style of life, and creative self.

### **Fictional Finalism**

Fictional finalism is the thought of individuals who hope for the future, what has been done is aimed at the future. Fiction is an unreal idea that is fictitious but influences people to do something by assuming that the idea will become real. The fictional finalism arises when Louisa overhears Will's father and mother's conversation and learns that Will will end his life at the Dignitas foundation, she is confused and then calls and goes to meet her sister, Katrina Clark. He told her what she had heard, felt her work was terrible, and would never return. But Katrina suggested doing something special.



**Picture 1.** Scene 46:33

*Katrina : Look. If this is what he really wants, then use the time he's got left. Make it special. Ask the Trynors for budget and go crazy. Organize, I don't know, swimming with dolphins, sky-diving, a nice sexy lap dance. City boys always like a lap dance.*

*Louisa : Katrina Clark!*

*Katrina : A bucket list. Show him how good this time can be. Take him places. Make him laugh.*

*Louisa : Bloody hell. But Treen, what if that list could do more than that? What if it could make him change his mind?*

In this scene, after Louisa hears advice from her sister, she decides to do something fun with Will and allow Will to appreciate his life and allow him to live his life even though he doesn't have a perfect life. Efforts Louisa will make for Will with the hope that in the future of Will will change his mind about ending his life.

### **Inferiority Feeling**

Inferiority is a feeling that arises when individuals feel inferior, less, or imperfect in doing something compared to other people. This feeling can appear in the individual as a result of a real condition or imagination. In Louisa's situation, she feels inferior when she feels that she is not suitable for the job as Will's caregiver because she has no previous experience as a caregiver.

*Will : Do you know what, Louisa? Me smashing those photographs was not an accident.*

*Louisa : Sorry. I didn't think.*

*Will : You thought you knew best. Well, I don't want those pictures staring at me every time I'm stuck in bed, waiting for someone to bloody get me out again. Okay?*

*Louisa : I wasn't going to fix the one of Alicia. I'm not that stupid.*

*Will : Spare me the cod psychology. Just go and raid your grandma's wardrobe or whatever it is you do when you're not making tea.*

*Louisa : You don't have to be an arse! Your friends got the shitty treatment. Fine. They deserved it. I'm just trying to do my job the best I can. So it would be really nice if you didn't try and make my life as miserable as you apparently make everyone else's.*

*Will : What if I said I didn't want you here?*

*Louisa : I'm not employed by you. I'm employed by your mother. So unless she says she doesn't want me here anymore, I'm staying. Not because I care about you or particularly enjoy your company, but because I need the money.*

In the scene and dialogue above, Will continues to display his sarcastic attitude when Louisa tries to repair the photo frame that Will destroys, making Louisa give up even though she has done an excellent job as Will's caregiver. But she can't just leave this job because she needs money for her family and her sister, who wants to continue her studies

and pursue her dreams. Louisa's other feelings are depicted in the dialogue below.

Louisa : *I had a place in Manchester.*  
Will : *What were you going to study?*  
Louisa : *Fashion.*  
Will : *Mmm. So, why didn't you go?*

In the last line, when Will asks, Louisa is silent and seems to think about something for a moment. She felt that she could not fulfill her dream. With Louisa's striking style of clothing ranging from colors to motifs and always looking cheerful, there is something in Louisa's life that needs to be hidden. Louisa's attitude is described as a stereotypical first child. She always put her family first and was taught to give in to her younger sister, which meant Louisa had to forget about her own dreams.

Louisa's feelings of inferiority are shown when Bernard and Josie (Louisa's parents), her grandfather, Louisa's boyfriend Patrick, and Will are in the dining room for dinner celebrating Louisa's birthday. Before Louisa worked as Will's caregiver, no one at home took Louisa seriously. At dinner, Bernard and Josie, whether intentionally or unintentionally, compare Louisa and Katrina, her sister, calling their youngest daughter "*the brain in the house,*" while Lou, who is not very intelligent, is 'only' seen as a cheerful and kind child.

### **Striving for superiority**

Striving for success arises when individuals feel a deficiency that causes feelings of inferiority and tries to cover it up by making efforts based on strength and struggle to get a decent life or a better life. Since Louisa didn't have much experience, she put in a lot of effort when working as Will's caregiver. When Louisa first started working, Will was always indifferent to Louisa, but Louisa tried his best to melt Will's heart by being cheerful and always greeting with a smile every morning. Her job as a caregiver that she did to help her family's finances deteriorated while her father was out of work, her mother was only a housewife, and her sister was only a flower shop worker and was forced to leave college because she had to work and raise her child as a single parent.

### **Social interest**

Social interests are individual interests that involve feelings of wanting to unite and

trying to develop social relationships with other human beings, not only fighting for themselves, but when individuals have social interests, they also have a sense of striving to provide benefits to other human lives. Individual social interests can be used as a standard that will later be used to determine how useful a person's life is.

Louisa, one of the main characters in the *Me Before You* movie, has a very high social interest. Louisa has a cheerful, friendly nature and always has a positive attitude making people around her feel comfortable when she is around. Louisa's social interest can be seen in the scene in the movie below.



**Picture 2.** Scene 02:53

The scene above is when Louisa is still working in a cafe while serving customers, most of whom are grandmothers with a fairly far age gap. Louisa doesn't feel awkward when serving these customers. She is even very polite and friendly and serves customers wholeheartedly. The customers at the cafe are very happy with Louisa's service. When some of them can't afford to finish their orders, or they're running low on money, Louisa will suggest wrapping their orders or suggesting tips to reduce the price of their orders. Louisa's social interest is also illustrated in the scene below when Louisa interviews with Traynors.

When Louisa had her first interview with Camilla Traynor to be Will's caregiver, she doubted Louisa, as Louisa had no experience as a caregiver or with quadriplegia. But Louisa confidently answered that she would learn about caregiver or quadriplegia. Louisa, who was nervous at that time, said any comments to cover her discomfort. However, with Lou's cheerful and enthusiastic demeanor, instead of being angry at Lou's words, Traynors accepts Lou as Will's caregiver.



*Picture 3. Scene 13:21*

When she met Will and Nathan for the first time, Louisa still made an impression with a cheerful smile even though, at that time, Will looked sarcastic at her but not at Nathan, who greeted her warmly. Nathan is Will's primary physical caregiver. Nathan takes care of all the health problems caused by Will's paralysis. Louisa is friendly and doesn't feel awkward when talking to Nathan about Will's medical needs. Since Louisa had a lot to learn about Will's needs, Nathanael gave her a book about what she needed to know. Nathan also explained some medicine to Louisa, and he listened seriously even though there were too many things for Louisa to remember, so it made her a little confused.

### **Style of life**

Style of life refers to how a person views an individual's unique nature, behavior, mindset, and habits in what is done daily. Because of their uniqueness in life, every human being has their style of life. Everyone has the same goal of achieving superiority, but there are countless ways to pursue it. Style of life is formed from innate birth and also the surrounding environment.

Louisa is someone who has a cheerful style of life, never gives up, is hardworking, and is also responsible. In this part, Louisa's lifestyle is as if she keeps trying to get Will to accept her.



*Picture 4. Scene 17:30*



*Picture 5. Scene 18:08*

The scene above is where Louisa never gives up and keeps trying to communicate with Will always asking what he needs on a different day, through the rain to bring flowers. She does it every morning with a smile even though all she gets is a sarcastic response. Lou is also responsible for her work, feeding food, storing clothes, and also taking care of Will. She does that with all her heart and sincerity.

### **Creative self**

The creative self is a very important factor in the individual's personality because it is seen as the prime mover, the first cause of all behavior. Louisa is a person who moves quickly with the circumstances around her. Louisa's creative self emerged, especially when she worked as Will's caregiver. When Will asks Louisa to take one of the man's DVD French collections and asks her to watch it together instead of making a cup of tea or food. At first, Louisa refused because she didn't like subtitled movies and before that, Will was sarcastic again and said, "*you must hate me, then.*" And Louisa replied, "*I've never hated anyone,*" which that word surprised Will a little. After watching the French movie with subtitles, Will thought he would get a negative reaction from Louisa about his favorite movie. Still, apparently, Louisa liked it and even had a strange opinion that Will began to see differently, and he liked it. The two began to bond from then on, and Louisa became enthusiastic about going to Will's castle every day. Louisa made Will laugh and excited to open his eyes every morning.

### **Discussion**

Louisa had to be fired because the coffee shop where she worked had to be closed, and she had to find another job because she was the breadwinner of her family, then after becoming Will's caregiver, then she had to get out of her comfort zone and seek a lot of

experience, there Louisa's efforts were discovered. While being Will's caregiver and knowing he will end his life, Louisa does the things she hopes will keep Will by her side. This is fictional finalism because even though trying to show beautiful things doesn't guarantee Will will change his mind, Louisa still tries and hopes that Will stays by her side.

Louisa has times when she felt a sense of inferiority. It can be seen when Louisa just started working because she has no experience as a caregiver or with quadriplegia. She is doing her job happily even though there are a few doubts about what she is doing, but when Will says things that irritate her, Louisa is forced to reveal that she was forced to take the job, it was because at that time, his family was in dire need of money. When Will starts to accept Louisa, they talk about Louisa's desire to study fashion which has not been fulfilled because she has to work for her family's life. Then at dinner in celebration of Louisa's birthday, Louisa's parents Bernand and Josie, compared Louisa to her sister Katrina by accident and made Louisa frown for a moment because her parents said that Katrina was proud because she was smart. Therefore Louisa works hard and also does her job with all her heart by taking care of Will and for a better life for her family.

With Louisa's always cheerful nature, she has a high social interest which can be seen when she is still working in a coffee shop. Louisa is always friendly and puts her customers at ease as they talk. When she interviewed Camilla Traynor, he still displayed a cheerful attitude even though she was a little nervous because it was her first interview. Then when she met Nathan, Will's physical caregiver, Louisa immediately seemed to get along so that the conversation between herself and Nathan when discussing Will's needs was not awkward. This proves that Louisa has a high social interest. Louisa has a style of life that is cheerful. She is also unyielding, hardworking, responsible, and always positive thinking. Louisa also has a creative self, with her different and unpredictable thoughts. She even says that she never hated anyone and likes her life even though there is some desire she can't do because she has to work, so her desire had to be delayed. With such a style of life, Louisa does everything with passion and tries to make a good impact on the people around her.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The character of Louisa in the *Me Before You* (2016) movie. Louisa's character is full of hope and optimism about the changes she can make to the people around her. After working for the Traynors as Will's caregiver, she hatches a plan in hopes that Will will change his mind about ending his life. Louisa's feelings of inferiority arise, such as being

forced to take a job as Will's caregiver because she really needs money, and also when she has not been able to realize her desire. But from that inferiority feeling came a feeling of superiority from there, Louisa worked harder apart from having no previous experience as a caregiver. She also had to endure Will's sarcastic attitude, which at first she didn't like, which she does for her family to live a better life. Louisa also has a cheerful nature, always smiling and friendly to everyone. This trait is also what makes Louisa get her job as a caregiver.

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