

**ENDEAVOUR TO SURVIVE IN PATRICIA MCCORMICK'S NOVEL
NEVER FALL DOWN (2012)**

THESIS

*Submitted as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement to Obtain the Strata One
(S1) Degree in English Department*



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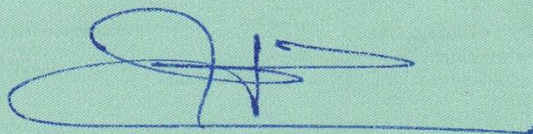
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ABSTRAK

Simarmata, Esron. 2019. *Endeavour to Survive in Patricia McCormick's Novel Never Fall Down (2012)*. Skripsi. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang..

Skripsi ini merupakan analisa dari novel *Never Fall Down* (2012) karya Patricia McCormick. Permasalahan yang diangkat dalam analisa ini adalah usaha keras untuk bisa bertahan hidup yang digambarkan oleh tokoh utama dalam novel. Tujuan penganalisaan ini adalah untuk menemukan sejauh mana kontribusi elemen fiksi seperti karakter, plot (konflik), dan *setting* dalam membantu untuk mengetahui usaha keras untuk bertahan hidup. Analisa ini dikaitkan dengan konsep *life instinct* yang dikembangkan oleh Sigmund Freud dan juga didukung oleh *text-based* dan *context-based interpretation*. Hasil analisa ini menunjukkan tentang usaha keras dari tokoh utama untuk bertahan hidup dalam menghadapi situasi apapun dengan cara mengubah pola pikir dan tingkah lakunya.

Kata kunci: *usaha keras, bertahan hidup, pola pikir, tingkah laku.*

ABSTRACT

Simarmata, Esron. 2019. *Endeavour to Survive in Patricia McCormick's Novel Never Fall Down (2012)*. Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This thesis is the analysis of a novel which written by Patricia McCormick entitled *Never Fall Down* (2012). It explores the issue of endeavour to survive which reflected by the main character. It is also intended to find out the contribution of fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict), and setting in revealing the issue of endeavour to survive. This analysis is related to the concept of life instinct which developed by Sigmund Freud that is supported by the text-based and context-based interpretation. The result of this analysis shows about the way the main character survive in dealing with any situation in his life by changing his mindset and behaviour.

Key words: *endeavour, survive, mindset, behaviour.*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

War is one of the worst problems in the world. This is a serious problem that brings a lot of destruction to anything around it. Moreover, war is also followed by various kinds of violence, misery, and even death. This terrible event also happened in Cambodia, a country in mainland Southeast Asia on the Indochinese peninsula. It was a civil war caused by the Communist Party of Kampuchea called the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge took control of Cambodia in April 1975 by invading the capital city, Phnom Penh, with their soldiers and forced millions of citizens into labor camps in the countryside to do agricultural work.

The Khmer Rouge regime was extremely brutal. They ruled the country and set up policies that bring a lot of misery to the people there. According to Philippa Fogarty on *BBC News* (2012), it is explained that prisoners were told to write detailed confessions setting out their disloyalty. They were told to admit they were spies and implicate friends and family. Refusing to confess was not an option, and those that tried were brutally tortured. Many people were tortured and it makes them live in horrible conditions which were caused by the Khmer Rouge. It is because they do not hesitate to torture people who do not want to obey their orders. Furthermore, this atrocity has caused many people died because they could

not stand the brutal treatment inhumanely done by the Khmer Rouge soldiers. As reported in BBC News (2018) :

“The brutal regime, in power from 1975-1979, claimed the lives of up to two million people.

Under the Marxist leader Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge tried to take Cambodia back to the Middle Ages, forcing millions of people from the cities to work on communal farms in the countryside “

The quotation above shows about the dangerous situation that occurs in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge treats many people like toys which can be treated as they want. They have no mercy towards people who suffers every day due to their vicious treatments. They committed many crimes and injured the people around them. Moreover, this situation made many people have no choice but to obey all the orders given by the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile, Youk Chhang is one who survived the ruthlessness committed by the Khmer Rouge. He is the leader of DC-Cam which is the field office of the Yale University Cambodia Genocide Program which carried out research, training, and documentation relating to the Khmer Rouge regime. Regarding Youk Chhang's experience of Khmer Rouge's cruelty, CNN (2008) reported that :

“He was 13 when the Khmer Rouge came to power. Separated from his family, forced into slave labor, beaten nearly to death for stealing rice for his pregnant sister, he saw the horrors firsthand.”

The quotation above proves that the Khmer Rouge had caused a lot of pain for the people at that time. They make people live in a horrible situation. The Khmer

Rouge did not care that the people who were victims of their atrocities were only children. They tortured people to work in order to fulfill their goals.

Despite all the atrocities, some people managed to survive the Khmer Rouge regime. These survivors did a lot of endeavour to survive any problems that come up. Endeavour to survive can be seen as an effort to surpass all horrible events. It means that they still have the desire to maintain their lives even when they are in a dangerous situation and are treated brutally. They try to do their best effort and keep going in order to survive in that situation. They have to improve their skill and ability to increase their chances of living.

The reflection of the terrible events in Cambodia is not only written in non-fiction works, but can also be found in fiction works. One of them is a novel entitled *Never Fall Down* (2012) which written by Patricia McCormick. This novel is written based on a true story that is combined with the author's imagination to make the story more interesting. Furthermore, this novel also exposes the issue of endeavour to survive. The novel itself is interesting to be analyzed since it shows how a young boy does not give up even when he is in a dangerous situation that can make him die at any time. It makes people realize that survive in a harsh condition is not impossible if they want to try hard to realize their hope.

1.2 Endeavour to Survive

There are two keywords to form the terminology of this study. They are endeavour and survive. The first word is endeavour. In Cambridge Dictionary (2019), endeavour is defined as an attempt to do something. Furthermore, the second word is survive. In Merriam-Webster (2019), survive is defined as to remain alive or in existence.

In this analysis, endeavour to survive refers to the way the main character deals with all the difficulties in his life. The main character does a lot of struggle to face all the hardship in order to keep him alive. He has a strong determination to be free from these harmful conditions. He always strives hard and tries to do his best in order to survive in a place where he can die at any time. He shows his endeavour to survive through his mindset and behaviour.

1.3 A Brief of Description of the Author's Biography

Patricia McCormick is an American journalist and writer of realistic fiction for young adults. She was born on May 23, 1956, in Washington, DC. She has B.S from Rosemont College in 1978. McCormick earned an M.S from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1985 and an M.F.A from the New School in 1999. She currently lives in New York City with her husband and her two children. McCormick worked as a reporter for daily newspapers and went into magazine journalism where she wrote book and movie reviews. She is a frequent contributor to several magazines and newspapers, including The New York Times, Ladies Home Journal, Town & Country, and Reader's Digest.

Patricia McCormick has written many works such as *Cut* (2000), *My Brother's Keeper* (2005), *Sold* (2006), *Purple Heart* (2009), *Never Fall Down* (2012), *I Am Malala* (2013), and *The Plot To Kill Hitler* (2016). In 2002, McCormick's *Cut* was named one of the ALA Best Books for Young Adults for that year. To write her novel *Sold*, McCormick traveled to the brothels of India and the mountain villages of Nepal to interview survivors of sex trafficking. McCormick won an Editor's Choice Award from Booklist and was a National Book Award Finalist in 2006 for her book *Sold*. Her novel *I Am Malala* also received CCBC Children's Choice Book Awards Finalist, International Literacy Association Teachers' Choice Selection, and Amelia Bloomer Project List Selection.

Patricia McCormick has great knowledge of writing. Most of her literary works are based on reality. She creates her books which are based on research and interviews. She also added her imagination to make it better. For her book *Never Fall Down*, she spent a month in Cambodia with a survivor of the Khmer Rouge Genocide. As she said in her official website:

“Arn and I spent hours in my home doing long, emotionally draining interviews. Then I traveled to Cambodia with him, retracing the steps of his childhood – from the town square where he and his little brother hustled for change, to the Killing Fields temple where he was forced to witness the torture and death of hundreds of people, and on to a remote corner of the country where Khmer Rouge hold-outs live to this day.”

The quotation above shows that she writes the *Never Fall Down* with a lot of preparation. She investigated everything that she found in order to get the actual

fact. She learned anything that had happened by observing that place. She collects the data and then creates a book which can be read by many people around the world. She creates a story which makes the reader will have the image of how the protagonist facing his hardest time a horrible environment.

1.4 *Never Fall Down (2012)*

A novel entitled *Never Fall Down (2012)* by Patricia McCormick shows the issue about endeavour to survive. In this analysis, endeavour to survive refers to the way the main character deals with all the difficulties in his life. It is represented by the protagonist, Arn, an eleven-years-old Cambodian boy who was suddenly forced to leave his hometown by a radical Communist regime called Khmer Rouge. He had to take a long walk to the work camp in the countryside with hundreds of thousands of other Cambodians. He is separated from his family and forced to work very hard in the rice field along with other children. During in the camp, he often witnessed many people starving. He was even used to seeing people die because they were tortured by the Khmer Rouge. Arn had to hide his emotions in order to survive the cruelty of Khmer Rouge. Arn started a new life when he moved to America because he was adopted by an American. He also begins to learn forgiveness and starts to find a purpose in his life. He became an activist who gave a speech about the massacre he experienced in Cambodia and gave motivations to children who had a past like him. In this analysis, endeavour to survive can be seen through his mindset and behaviour in dealing with any situation.

The first way of endeavour to survive can be seen through the changing of his mindset that is related to the way the main character speaks, thinks, or feels about someone or something. The main character learns to hide his emotion. He also improves his skill and abilities by learning new things around him. He builds a relationship and makes good communication to other people around him so they could stay together with others. He helps others and protects them physically and mentally to stay alive.

The second way of endeavour to survive can be seen through the changing of his behaviour that is related to the way the main character respond to all the problems that come up. The main character ables to adapt quickly to any situation he faces. He has strong determination and did not give up easily when things got worse. He learned to use important thing wisely. He becomes a competitive person who does not want to lose to anyone.

1.5 Problem of Study

This analysis is focused on endeavour to survive in Patricia McCormick's novel *Never Fall Down* (2012). Thus, there are two research questions that give contribution in analyzing the issue of endeavour to survive:

1. How far do the character expose the issue of endeavour to survive in Patricia McCormick's novel *Never Fall Down* (2012)?
2. To what extent do other fictional devices such as plot (conflict) and setting contribute in revealing the issue of endeavour to survive in Patricia McCormick's novel *Never Fall Down* (2012)?

1.6 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to expose how far the character reveal the issue of endeavour to survive in Patricia McCormick's novel *Never Fall Down* (2012). It is conducted to figure out the role of character, plot (conflict), and setting in the novel revealing the issue of endeavour to survive in Patricia McCormick's novel *Never Fall Down* (2012).

1.7 Previous Study

The study about endeavour to survive in Patricia McCormick's novel entitle *Never Fall Down* (2012) has not been found yet. However, there are some studies that related to this analysis and give contributions in analyzing this novel. The first study entitled *A Journey of Self-Actualization of Amir in The Kite Runner* by Juan Du (2017). The second study entitled *The Challenges of Overcoming Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in Toni Morrison's Sula and Home* by Selay Marius Kouassi (2018).

The first study entitled *A Journey of Self-Actualization of Amir in The Kite Runner* by Juan Du (2017) shows about the way a person gain self-redemption from all past mistakes. The focus on this study is about the main character named Amir who found a reason which changes him into a better person. The researcher discusses about two main issues in this novel. The first issue is the process of self-actualization of Amir. This issue describes about the internal factor that leads Amir to make up all the mistakes he made in the past in order to heal his soul. The second issue is return of humanity which is about the external factor that recovers

Amir's soul. The result of this analysis shows that self-actualization is both the process of self-discovery and the return of the bright side of human nature.

The second study entitled *The Challenges of Overcoming Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in Toni Morrison's Sula and Home* by Selay Marius Kouassi (2018) shows about how African-American war veterans rebuild and recover themselves from their trauma. This study related to Judith Herman's Trauma Theory, which outlines new concepts for understanding, defining, and treating of trauma, especially Post-traumatic stress disorder. The aim of this study is to show that the trauma experienced by war veterans can be helped by the love and care of relatives and the empathy that the community shows to war veterans. It can help them to soothe their painful past, recover their shattered selves, and gain self-stability.

Both of these studies give contribution and inspiration in analyzing the issue of endeavour to survive. The first study shows the process of self-redemption from all past mistakes. Furthermore, the second study shows that the affection from relatives and community played an important role in helping war veterans to overcome their trauma. Those studies help to understand the difficulties of the main character's life. Unlike those previous studies, this analysis focuses on the strategies of the main character to survive from all the hardships that he faced in his life.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

The analysis about endeavour to survive in this novel is related to the concept of life instinct. The concept of life instinct in this analysis is related to the psychoanalysis theory developed by Sigmund Freud. According to Freud, people are driven by two fundamental instincts. They are the death instinct (thanatos) and the life instinct (eros). Death instinct (thanatos) is linked to negative emotions such as fear, hate, and anger. It is the force that makes living creatures strive for death in order to achieve real peace since only death can free them from all of life's struggles. Meanwhile, life instinct (eros) are those which are relied upon for survival, pleasure, and reproduction. The life instinct is a necessity to maintain the existence. In the book *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (1961:55), Freud states:

“What are commonly called the sexual instincts are looked upon by us as the part of Eros which is directed towards objects. Our speculations have suggested that Eros operates from the beginning of life and appears as a ‘life instinct’ in opposition to the ‘death instinct’ which was brought into being by the coming to life of inorganic substance. These speculations seek to solve the riddle of life by supposing that these two instincts were struggling with each other from the very first.”

The quotation above shows that the life instinct (eros) and the death instinct (thanatos) play an important role in life. Both of them fight each other to control someone's self. The desire for life and pleasure collides with the act of self-defeating. In the end, the one that has the biggest impact is the one who will control someone's self and it will determine the next action that will be taken.

The life instinct (eros) is very important for sustaining the life. This instinct can be seen as simply the desire to develop, grow, and thrive. It serves as the survival instinct of the individual by trying to fulfill people basic needs. The life instinct is also associated with behaviors that support harmony among people. This harmony can be seen from their collaboration and cooperation. In *Theory and Practice of Counseling and Psychotherapy, Tenth Edition* by Gerald Corey (2015:59) states that:

“Instincts are central to the Freudian approach. Although he originally used the term libido to refer to sexual energy, he later broadened it to include the energy of all the life instincts. These instincts serve the purpose of the survival of the individual and the human race; they are oriented toward growth, development, and creativity. Libido, then, should be understood as a source of motivation that encompasses sexual energy but goes beyond it. Freud includes all pleasurable acts in his concept of the life instincts; he sees the goal of much of life as gaining pleasure and avoiding pain.”

The quotation above shows that the life instinct is focused on the preservation of life. This instinct will force people to do any actions that sustain their own lives. This instinct is driven by strong energy which is called libido. This crucial energy will drive people to find anything which is pleasurable for their lives. Furthermore, this sexual instinct is not only about something erotic, but it also encompasses everything delightful to the people.

The life instinct (eros) motivates people to create and look after a new life through positive emotions. This positive emotions such as love, affection, and social cooperation will support both individual security and the harmonious existence of a cooperative and healthy society. In other words, life instinct is a

collection of all emotions and actions that make people preserve their lives as well as they create new lives.

In this novel, the protagonist is a young boy who has a good life instinct. He never gives up in facing all the problems in his life. He was able to rise when he was in a bad condition. He has strong determination and struggles to go through every difficult condition that comes to him. Furthermore, he gives his best attempts to overcome every problems and difficulty through his mindset and behaviour.

The analysis of this novel is supported by text and context-based interpretation. According to Guerin (2005), text-based interpretation means the approach that is based on the analysis and interpretation of the text itself and context-based interpretation is the approach that based on the circumstances of culture, history, politics, and social. It means the analysis of this novel does not only focus on the text itself, but also involves the phenomenon that really happens in the real world which is related to the story.

The analysis of this novel is also contributed by fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict), and setting. Character gives big contributions to reveal the meaning in the novel. Abrams in *A Glossary Literary Terms* (1999) states that characters are the person represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. In literary

works, the character helps reader to understand and reveal the meaning of the work. The way to analyze the character is to focus on the protagonist's action, thought, and conversation towards conflict and circumstances.

The second fictional device used in this analysis is plot (conflict). Plot is a sequence of events for the things that happen in the story. According to Abram and Harpham (2012), plot is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects. It shows how plot gives contributions to reveal the meaning of the story by actions and emotional effect. In this analysis, the protagonist's action has a significant pattern to bring the meaning of the conflict.

The last fictional devices that give contribution is setting. Setting is not only about time and place taken in a story. It is also strongly related to situation, condition, and atmosphere or mood. According to Abram and Harpham (2012), setting is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within the work is the particular physical location in which it takes place. In this analysis, the story takes place in a civil war situation in Cambodia. People were forced to walk to the work camp in the countryside and worked as labor. The protagonist has to face brutal treatments from the Khmer Rouge who ruled that place. The atmosphere is the protagonist's main reason for giving a lot of endeavour to survive.

1.9 Methodology

The analysis of this novel is done through text and context-based interpretation. Text-based interpretation is done by analyzing character, plot (conflict), and setting. These fictional devices give contributions in revealing the issue in the novel. Character and plot are used to reveal the act of endeavour to survive by analyzing the character's reaction towards the conflict. Then, the setting deals with the circumstances and atmosphere which experienced by the protagonist.

The analysis of this study deals with the concept of life instinct by Sigmund Freud. This is an instinct which is relied upon for survival, pleasure, and reproduction. It is an instinct which needs for sustaining life. This instinct can be seen as simply the desire to develop, grow, and thrive. The concept of life instinct also encompasses all emotions and actions that make people preserve their lives as well as they create new lives.