HOLLY’S MOTIVATION TO LIVE HER LIFE
AS SEEN IN CECELIA AHERN’S P.S. I LOVE YOU

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
to Obtain the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree
in English Language Education

By
Yohanes de Cruce Artdo Mahardhika
Student Number: 071214057

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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Approved by

Advisor

Drs. L. Bambang Hendarto Y., M.Hum. August 24th, 2012
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Defended before the Board of Examiners
on September 12th, 2012
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Yogyakarta, September 12th, 2012
Faculty of Teachers Training and Education
Sanata Dharma University

Dean:

Rohandi, Ph.D.
You'll never really find those perfect words,
Something more than just, goodbye.
It's hard to remember the good times when there was just so much heartache,
And they deserve more than that.
They deserve more than just one single moment of sadness, so just remember,
When there's enough love in our hearts to burst like a supernova,
Then there's sure as hell's enough love in our hearts, to spark that famous smile.

We all lose someone at some point in our lives,
But don't ever let go of that smile.
Hold on forever, because that's our final dedication.

(Asking Alexandria)

I dedicate this thesis to
All those who have hearts
STATEMENT OF WORK’S ORIGINALITY

I honestly declare that this thesis, which I have written, does not contain the work or parts of the work of other people, except those cited in the quotations and references, as a scientific paper should.

Yogyakarta, August 24th 2012
The Writer

Yohanes de Cruce Artdo Mahardhika
071214057
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN
PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

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AS SEEN IN CECELIA AHERN’S P.S. I LOVE YOU

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Dibuat di Yogyakarta
Pada tanggal: 24 Agustus 2012

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Yohanes de Cruze Artdo Mahardhika
ABSTRACT


This study analyzes a novel entitled *P.S. I Love You* by Cecelia Ahern. This novel tells about the motivation to live of a wife after her beloved husband’s death. The story sets in Ireland. Holly Kennedy is young, beautiful and married to the love of her life, a passionate, funny and impetuous Irishman named Gerry. Before he dies, Gerry writes Holly a series of 10 letters that will guide her. The messages are Gerry's way of informing Holly to manage her life. The messages include various tasks and treats Gerry has left for Holly. Each letter leads her on a new adventure which slowly moulds her into a new person. Each signs off in the same way: "P.S. I Love You." Holly's mother and best friends, Sharon and Denise, begin to worry that Gerry's letters are keeping Holly tied to the past, but, in fact, each letter is pushing her further into a new future, making her stronger and helping her to move on into a bright future.

There are two research questions to be answered in this study. The first question is how Holly’s character is portrayed in this novel. The next question is what motivates Holly to live her life after her beloved husband’s death. Therefore, the aims of the study are to describe Holly’s character and to reveal the motivation of Holly to live her life.

This study implements library research in collecting the data. The psychological approach is employed to find out the motivation of Holly to live her life. There are two sources that are employed in this study. The primary source is the novel itself entitled *P.S. I Love You*. The secondary sources are from psychological books and literary works. Theory of character and characterization and theory of motivation are employed to analyze the problem formulated.

Based on the analysis, Holly is a loving, tough, persistent woman. These character traits lead Holly to be strong to live her life. The motives that depict Holly’s motivations are achievement motive and affiliative motive. In the achievement motive, no matter what happens Holly has to live with or without her beloved husband. She wants to achieve something better in her life even her beloved husband is no longer by her side. In the affiliative motive, Holly's fear of rejection, maintaining interpersonal networks, and the need of love affect her as the motivation to live.

This study provides some suggestions for future researchers and for the development of English teaching learning activity. For future researchers who employ the same novel, the writer suggests the meaning of love for Holly as a wife as one of the topics for discussion. For the development of the English teaching learning activities, the writer suggests this novel as a material for Basic Reading I.

Keywords: motive, love, life
ABSTRAK


Studi ini memberikan beberapa saran untuk peneliti selanjutnya dan menyertakan aktivitas untuk proses pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. Untuk peneliti yang selanjutnya, penulis menyarankan pembahasan pada arti cinta bagi seorang istri untuk Holly sebagai salah satu topic untuk diskusi. Bagi pengembangan proses pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris, penulis menyarankan novel ini untuk digunakan dalam mata kuliah Basic Reading I.

Kata kunci: motive, love, live
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This first chapter contains the introduction of the study and it consists of five parts. The first part is the background of study, explaining the reasons in conducting this study. The second part is the objectives of the study. The third part is problem formulation, in which the problem of the study is proposed in the form of research questions. The fourth part is the benefits of the study, explaining the importance of the study. The last part of this chapter contains the definition of terms used in this study in order to avoid misunderstanding.

A. Background of the Study

Human beings have many kinds of feeling, such as love, anger, sadness, and happiness. They also have many ways to express their feelings, for example through writing some poems, producing song lyrics, and even showing their feeling to someone that they love by using simple words, such as “I love you” and “You are my only one”. The ability to express their feeling by the words is one factor that differentiates human beings from other creatures. Animals can show their feelings, whether they are afraid or angry, only by using gestures. On the other hand, people can show their feeling not only using gestures and facial expression, but also using some words to produce sentences.

One kind of feelings is the feeling of love. Love is a simple word that most people all over the world have known. Love is the first impression which comes
to our mind and a special feeling for other people. Love is a basic feeling to do good things. Love usually plays a big role in our life. We must always keep it and try to share it in order to reach beautiful life.

People have their own meaning about love. For example, some people say that love is mystery because sometimes people can feel the beauty of love, but in some other time they feel confused because love is thoughtless and so cruel. We might consider love as a means to be mature, because we could learn a lot of things from love.

May (1969) quoting Early Greek Myth, says, “Without love, there will be no life, joy and motion, all is silent, bare and motionless” (p. 63). It shows that love is important, because it is the base of our life, and we need love to live our life. Pieper (1972) says there are three kinds of love. The first called Agape, the second is Eros, and the third is Philia. Agape refers to an unselfish love. It has nothing to do with lust and desire. Usually agape refers to love to God. Eros is a kind of love with human ego as the base, which is full of desire. Philia refers to universal love (pp. 60-61). In other word, it can also be called as friendship and solidarity among human beings.

Two people who love each other usually end in a marriage in order to make their love perfect. Marriage carries out many consequences to the people who do it. Understanding others is not an easy job to carry out because it is not about “I”, it is about “us”.

The real example what happens in marriage is reflected in the novel entitled P.S. I Love You (2004) by Cecilia Ahern. The novelist presents Holly as
the main character in the novel. Holly represents a faithful wife who has to struggle for her life. She has to stand up against problem of her marriage as her husband passes away. Therefore, it is interesting to analyze Holly’s motivation to live her life after she has no beloved husband beside her anymore. She faces a hard life.

In addition, the title of *P.S. I Love You* makes this novel seem to be like a romance novel, even though in the truth, the novel is like the saddest love story ever told. The story begins several months before the 30th Gerry’s birthday. One day, Gerry promises Holly to give the list before he dies. The list is about all the things Holly should do after Gerry has gone. Holly thinks her husband is joking until Gerry is buried; Holly's mother gives her some letters from Gerry.

Since the novel *P.S. I Love You* talks about the way of Holly lives after her beloved husband dies, it is interesting to analyze the novel and to know the characteristic of Holly and her motivation to live. It will also give the readers more understanding about how to love someone until death does them apart.

**B. Problem Formulation**

From the background above, the writer formulates the following questions:

1. How is Holly portrayed in Cecelia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You*?
2. What motivates Holly to live her life after her beloved husband passes away?
C. **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are to find out the character and motivation of Holly to live her life after her husband passes away. The focus of this study is to make the readers realize that motivation is about achieving what we need and want as seen in Cecelia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You.*

D. **Benefits of the Study**

The study is expected to be able to give some benefits for the readers, students, and researchers. First is for the readers. This study is beneficial for the readers in gaining a better understanding related to the novel. It also helps the readers to enrich their knowledge about how a woman struggle in their life to face the inconvenient truth. Through the literary works, they can adapt the concepts in the novel to be practiced in their real life.

Second is for students. The writer hopes that this study will also be useful for the students. By reading this study the students are gaining a lot of information related to the way the women have to fight for their life and future.

The third is for the researchers. This study gives an important contribution to the future research related to psychological approach. Hence, the researchers can observe and analyze some aspects of the novel by applying psychological approach. The writer hopes that this study also inspires other researchers to analyze this remarkable novel.

By analyzing the novel, it is assumed that the reader will gain some beneficial values and a clear point of view about what the true love is. This study...
is expected to get people more careful in taking action in their life, because this novel is a good example of love which full of consequences. This study is also expected to make the readers are able to know about the real meaning of true love represents by Gerry and Holly in Cecilia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You* until death does them apart.

E. Definition of Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, definitions of terms are provided in this study. Another advantage of writing the definition of terms is to clarify the terms used in this thesis so that the readers can get a better understanding.

1. Motivation

Eggert (1999) states motivation is the process which encourages and guides behavior. Motivation could be seen through behavior, the changing of behavior or by asking the persons about what they need and want to do (pp.2-3). Thus, in this study the term motivation refers to the process which encourages and guides the behavior of Holly. Holly keeps asking to herself about what she needs and wants.

2. Love

According to Hauck (1983) in *How to Love and be Loved* “love is that powerful feeling one has for person, animal, or things that has satisfied, is satisfying, or will satisfy our desire and needs”. Thus, love is a kind of feeling which is great and meaningful and someone has to share each other (p. 16).

3. Life

According to Cowie (1989) “life is qualities, events, and experiences
that characterize existence of human being”. Thus life is the sequence of event
each human being must face in this world (p. 720).
CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter consists of two parts. The first part explains the theories employed in this study. The second part of this chapter explains how those theories are applied in analyzing the novel.

A. Review of Related Theories

There are some theories used in analyzing this research. These theories give valuable information for conducting this research. The theories used are theory of character and characterization, theory of critical approach, and theory of motivation.

1. Approach

Theory of critical approach is the theory which allows the reader to have a better understanding about the story. As stated by Rohrberger and Woods Jr (1971), “To have a reasonable judgment, we have to employ a means, which is called critical approach” (p. 3), and there are 5 approaches, which can be used, in literary study (pp. 6-15). Those approaches are formalist approach, biographical approach, the socio cultural-historical approach, the mytophoeic approach and psychological approach.

The psychological approach, among those five approaches, is the one which will be used in this study. The psychological approach is an approach which uses psychology area as the main entrance in analyzing certain character, story, or habit, as many people believe that human mind is the center of every thought and
action that people have. Rohrberger and Woods Jr state that this approach leads to
the exploration of the unconscious of the human mind, which lead to the
conclusion that it is this area that is the wellspring of man rich imagination, his
capacity for creation and the complexity of this thought, behavior, and that the
contents of his region of the mind find expression in symbolic words, thoughts
and action (p. 13). The writer uses this approach in order to find out the
motivation of Holly to live her life. Psychological approach used because this is
the most appropriate approach in order to know the motivation behind the
human’s action.

2. Character and Characterization

Characters play an important role in a literary work. In order to understand
the story, the readers of literary works have to understand the characters in the
novel first. Through the actions and the dialogues of the characters, the readers
find a way to understand the story of a literary work.

There are some theories of character to identify the characterization of a
particular character and those theories really provide valuable information.
Abrams (1999, p.21) in *Glossary of Literary Terms* states “characters are persons
in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and depositional qualities
that expresses in what they say – dialogue- and what they do – action.”
Furthermore, Abrams also states that characters, which appear in novel, possess
some characteristics which similar to human beings in the real world.

In addition, Abrams also divides the character into major or main character
and minor character. Main character presents himself in the story from the
beginning to the end and plays an important role in it. He should be able to draw the readers’ attention through his behavior, attitude, action, and speech. On the contrary, minor character only becomes the background of the main character. He is presented only in certain event. The function of minor character is to strengthen the development of the main character.

Foster (2002) states there are two kinds of character in the novel. They are flat character and round character (pp. 46-47). Flat character is constructed around a single idea or quality and is presented without much individualizing detail, such as goodness or badness. Round character is a complex character. It has differences in temperament and motivation and is represented with subtle particularly: such a character is difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like real person. The theory of character will help to understand the characters in *P.S. I Love You*, especially Holly and her thoughts as seen in her dialogue and action.

To know deeper about the character of Holly the theory of character and characterization are needed. Characterization is an important part; it helps the reader to understand the main character deeper. Characterization is a process where the characters in the novel are portrayed as if they are real people and they live in the real world. Murphy (1972, pp.161-167) states that there are nine ways, which enable the author to present a character in a story understandably and lively for the readers. Those nine ways are as follow:

The first is through personal description. Using personal description the writer tries to describe the person’s appearance and clothes. The description of the
person’s appearance and clothes will give the reader a clue about the characteristic of a character. However, sometimes the author tries to trick the reader by describing the character as a bad person through his or her appearance and clothes whereas character of a person cannot simply be judged by the way people dressed or their appearance.

The second is through the characters as seen by another. Using this way, instead of describing character directly, the author describe the character through the eyes and opinions of other. The reader gets, as it were, a reflected image. The opinions from the character itself, directly or not, will affect the reader’s thought about a particular character.

The third way for an author to present a character in the story is through speech. The author can give the reader an insight into the character through the speech of other character. Whenever a person speaks, whenever he is in conversation with another, whenever he puts forward an opinion, he is giving the reader some clues to his character.

The fourth is through past life. By letting the reader learn something about a person’s past life, the author can give the reader a clue to events that have helped to shape a person’s character. It is can be in a form of a direct comment by the author, through the person’s thoughts, through his conversation or through the medium of another person.

The fifth is through conversation of others. The author can give the reader clues to a person’s character through the conversation of other people and the
things they say about him or her. People do talk about other people and the things they say often used as a clue to the characters of the person spoken about.

The sixth is through reactions, the author can also give the reader a clue to a person’s character by letting the reader know how that person reacts to various situations and events. The way a character reacts toward a various kinds of situation will reveal the characteristic within him or her.

The seventh is through direct comment; this is the simplest form because the author gives a direct comment on the character. The eighth is through thoughts. The author can give the reader direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. In this respect, the author is able to do what the reader cannot do in real life. The author can tell the reader what different people are thinking. In the novel the reader accepts this. The reader then is in a privileged position; he has, as it were, a secret listening device plugged in to the inmost thoughts of a person in a novel. The last or the ninth is through manners. The author can describe a person’s mannerism, habits or idiocies, which may also tell us something about his character (pp. 161-173).

3. Motivation

a. Definition

Herbert Petri (1979), in his book entitled Motivation: Theory and Research, defines motivation as the concept that people use when they describe the forces acting on or within an organism to initiate and direct behavior (p. 3). Whereas Whorcel and Shebilske (1989) defines motivation as a reason why an organism acts in a certain way in certain time cause by some energy or source from the
body which devices temporarily the capabilities into actions (p. 373). People have known that there are reasons in every behavior conducted by human. These reasons called motivation; this motivation is the main machine in human action.

b. **Kinds of Motivation**

Motivation researchers have long considered human motives and needs. However, isolating people's motivational needs can be a difficult process because most people are not explicitly aware of what their motives are. In this study the psychology theory used in order to find out the significant reasons and motivations why Holly can live her life after her beloved husband passes away observed from a psychological point of view. To be specific, the theory, used, is theory of motivation. The theory of motivation helps is used for finding out the motivation of Holly to live her life.

Murray (1964) has proposed the list of social motives namely abasement, achievement, affiliation, aggression, autonomy, counteraction, defendance, deference, dominance, exhibition, harmavoidance, inavoidance, nurturance, order, play, rejection, sentience, sex, succorance, and understanding. In this case, the writer intends to elaborate only on achievement and affiliative motives (p.99).

Murray (1965) elaborates the definition of a motive and motivation. He states that a motive is an internal factor that arouses, directs, and integrates a person’s behavior. Motivation is distinguished from other factors that also influence behavior, such as the past experience of the person, his physical capabilities, and the environmental situation in which he finds himself, although these other factors may influence motivation (p.7)
Murray (1965) states affiliation motivation refers to a desire to be with people in affectionate and friendly relationship. Affiliation motive has been defined as a “concern in one or more of the characters ever establishing, maintaining, or restoring a positive affective relationship with another person. This includes expressing a desire for a friendly relationship, a fear of rejection, activities toward establishing a relationship, and the attainment of a close relationship as a goal. He also states that people with a strong affiliation motive prefer to work with friends and congenial companions even if the task suffers somewhat (pp. 101-104). In summary, affiliative motive is a motivation what makes person to be friendly to make a good relationships and he is expected to have good interaction with other people in order to accomplish his goals.

Murray (1965, pp.99-101) states that individuals with high achievement motivation will automatically do better on any and all tasks. High-achieving people tend to have self-confidence, to like individual responsibility, and to prefer concrete knowledge of the results of their work. He also states that there are three specific components of achievement, such as the expression of a desire for achievement (for instance, “He wants to be a doctor”), the description of activity instrumental for success (“He will try his best”), or the anticipation of reaching his goal (“He is thinking of the day when he’ll be famous”).

According to McClelland (1985) in Human Motivation, there are four kinds of motive systems. They are achievement motive, power motive, affiliative motive and avoidance motive. In this research, the writer only explains about the achievement and affiliative motive because those are the most suitable theories for
analyzing the research.

c. **The achievement motive**

What should be involved in the achievement motive is doing something better for its own sake, for the intrinsic satisfaction of doing something better. There are three characteristic of people with a strong need to achieve.

1) **Personal performance for responsibility**

Subjects high in \( n \) Achievement would prefer being personally responsible for a performance result, because only under such conditions could they feel satisfaction from doing something better.

2) **Need for performance feedback**

Subjects high in \( n \) Achievement should prefer working in situation where they get feedback on how well they are doing.

3) **Innovativeness**

Subjects high in \( n \) Achievement should be more likely to seek out information to find better ways of doing things.

d. **The affiliative motives**

The word *love* is commonly used to describe various types of affiliative ties, and everyone agrees that it is important to satisfy the love need. There are five characteristics of people with strong need for affiliation.

1) **Performing better when affiliative incentives are present**

Individuals with a strong affiliative motive will perform better on tasks that do not involve affiliative content if the incentive in the situation is shifted from achievement to affiliation.
2) **Maintaining interpersonal networks**

Since subjects high in *n* Affiliation learn social relationship more quickly, are more sensitive to faces than to other objects, and engage in more dialogue with others, they might be expected to also show signs of maintaining their connections to other people.

3) **Cooperation, conformity, and conflict**

Individuals high in *n* Affiliation, particularly males, believe that goodwill is more important than reason in solving human problems.

4) **Managerial behavior**

Subjects high in *n* Affiliation tend not to succeed in management.

5) **Fear of rejection**

Subjects high in *n* Affiliation are anxious about their relations with others, fear disapproval, and spend time seeking reassurance from others, which makes them unpopular.

Huffman and Vernoy (2000, p.401) in *Theory of Human Personality* also states intrinsic motivation refers to a desire to exhibit an action for our own sake. It means that this motivation comes from someone’s enjoyment and pleasure. There is not a real reward (money, certificate, or status) for his work but the reward is from his heart, his satisfaction in doing something well. Besides, extrinsic motivation is a desire to exhibit an action because of the external rewards and avoidance of punishment. It means this motivation comes from reward which will be benefit for someone, such as money, certificate, or status. There is not enjoyment in this motivation. Someone only does something for the
reward given not for his satisfaction.

e. Human Needs

All human behavior is motivated by some needs. The needs highly influence human beings to behave in a certain way and to make decisions in accordance with goals. The needs force human beings to strive for their goals until the goals are achieved. In relation to this study, the writer thinks that it is crucial to employ the theory of human needs to find out what motivates Holly to live her life.

Hjelle and Ziegler (1981, p.369) in *Personality Theories: Basic Assumptions, Research, and Applications* explain Maslow’s Hierarchical Theory of Motivation. Maslow believes that much of human behavior could be explained by the individual’s tendency to seek personal goal that makes life rewarding and meaningful. In Maslow’s system, as one personal desire is satisfied, another surfaces to take its place. Maslow proposes that human desires are innate and that they are arranged in an ascending hierarchy of priority or potency, those are basic. The needs can be explained as follow:

The first need is physiological needs. This is the most basic, powerful, and obvious of all human needs, concerned with the biological maintenance of the organism and must be gratified at some minimal level before the individual is motivated by higher-order needs. Included in this group are the needs for food, drink, oxygen, activity and sleep, sex, protection from extreme temperatures, and sensory stimulation.
The second need is safety needs. After the physiological needs have been satisfied, people then put their attention to the safety or security needs. What play an important role here is to ensure a reasonable degree of certainty, order, structure, and predictability in one’s environment. Maslow suggests that the safety needs are most readily observed in infants and young children because of their relative helplessness and dependence on adults. However, adults are influenced this safety needs as well as children are. The preference for a job that provides a financial protection, the establishments of saving accounts, and the acquisition of insurance may be regarded as motivated in part by safety seeking. In addition, religious and philosophic belief systems are also involved in giving people the secure feeling. Other expressions of the need for safety occur when individuals are confronted with emergencies such as war, crime waves, floods, earthquakes, riots, societal disorganizations, and similar condition.

The third need is belongingness and love needs. When an individual is able to fulfill the physiological needs and has already felt secure, the next is he will struggle to fulfill the belongingness and love needs. Included in this subject is the need for affectionate relationships with others, a place in his family and/ or reference groups. Group membership becomes a dominant goal for the individual. Therefore, how does it feel to be lonely, alienated by the society, friendless, and rejected will be imprinted well in a person’s feeling, especially when induced by the absence of friends, relatives, a spouse, or children. Love is not synonymous with sex. He argues that mature love involves a healthy, loving relationship between two people, which includes mutual respect, admiration, and trust. He
emphasizes that a person’s need for love involve both giving and receiving love, which are regarded as instrument to healthy feelings of worth. Not being loved creates futility, emptiness, and hostility.

The fourth need is self-esteem needs. When the needs to be loved and loving others are fulfilled, the next is to pursue is the self-esteem needs. Maslow divides these into two subsidiary sets: self-respect and esteem for others. Self-respect includes such things as desire for competence, confidence, personal strength, adequacy, achievement, independence, and freedom. An individual needs to know whether he is capable of mastering tasks and challenges in life. Esteem from others includes prestige, recognition, acceptance, attention, status, fame, reputation, and appreciation. In this case, people need to be appreciated for what they can do. Satisfaction of the self-esteem needs leads to feelings and attitudes of self-confidence, self-worth, strength, capability, and the sense of being useful and necessary in the world. On the contrary, the failure to get satisfied on these needs will cause feelings and attitudes of inferiority, ineptness, weakness, and helplessness. These negative self-perceptions give a person sense of futility and hopelessness in dealing with life’s demands. Maslow emphasizes that the healthiest self-esteem is based on earned respect from others rather than on fame, status, or adulation. People need to bear in mind that esteem needs effort. If they get it only from the opinion of others, they experience what is called psychological jeopardy. To avoid this, esteem has to be gained through a real ability, achievement, and adequacy.
The fifth need is self-actualization needs. After the self-esteem needs are satisfied, an individual comes to self actualization needs. Maslow describes self-actualization as the desire to become everything that one is capable of becoming; to reach the peak of one’s potential: A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be. He must be true to his own nature. However, only a few people ever achieve self-actualization. The reason of this is that many people are blind to their potential, and tend to doubt and fear to be what actually they are. In addition, environment’s view about ideal life also plays an important role in people’s failure in gaining self-actualization.

B. Theoretical Framework

In this section, the rationale of the theories is elaborated. The theory of critical approach to literature and the theory of character are used to answer the first question. Theories of motivation are employed to answer the second question.

According to Rohrberger and Woods Jr (1971), there are five approaches which can be used in studying literature; however the approach used by in this study is the psychological approach because psychological approach deals with human character and characterization. Besides Murphy (1972) presents nine ways that are used to reveal the characterization of a character. The theory of characterization is applied in order to know the characterization of Holly. By
knowing the character of Holly, it will be easier to find out the motivation of Holly.

In answering the second question, the theory of motivation is used. The answer of first question will also be used in revealing the motivation of Holly, because the character of Holly affects the motivation to live her life. McClelland (1985) elaborates the way in measuring the motivation. The motivation is measured by understanding the motive systems. The achievement motive and the affiliative motive are used to describe the motivation of Holly. These motive systems are the most suitable for describing Holly’s motivation and Maslow’s theory used to know about Holly’s needs as her motivation in order to live her life.
CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists of three parts. The first part is the object of the study, which contains the information related to the novel used in this study. The second part is the approach of the study, explaining the approaches used in analyzing the novel. The third part is research procedure, which explains the sequence actions taken in conducting this study.

A. Object of the Study

The object of this study is one of Cecilia Ahern's famous novels, titled P.S. I Love You. This book consists of 503 pages that are divided into 51 chapters. HarperCollins, Ltd. published “P.S. I LOVE YOU” in Great Britain in 2007. The book opens when Holly is mourning her loss after her beloved husband has just died. It tells how she is grieving for her husband named Gerry has written to her 10 letters that give her advice which will help her after losing him. Each letter ends with PS. I love you. Holly has to open one letter every month. The book follows her life and how her friends, family and Gerry's letters help her through.

The story sets in Ireland. Holly Kennedy is young, beautiful and married to the love of her life, a passionate, funny and impetuous Irishman named Gerry. So when Gerry dies because of illness, it takes the life out of Holly. The only one who can help her is the person who is no longer by her side. Nobody knows Holly better than Gerry, so it is a good thing he plans ahead. Before he dies, Gerry
writes Holly a series of 10 letters that will guide her, not only through her grief but in rediscovering herself. The messages are Gerry's way of informing Holly to manage her life. The messages include various tasks and treats Gerry has left for Holly. This is his way of letting her know he will always be there for her. Each letter sends her on a new adventure which slowly moulds her into a new person. Each signs off in the same way: "P.S. I Love You." Holly's mother and best friends, Sharon and Denise, begin to worry that Gerry's letters are keeping Holly tied to the past, but, in fact, each letter is pushing her further into a new future, making her stronger and helping her to move on into a bright future.

B. Approach of the Study

The psychological approach is used, considering that this study is aimed at getting a deeper understanding about the Holly’s motivation to live her life. Rohrberger and Woods (1971) state that psychological approach draws knowledge which carries human motivation, mind, imagination, thought and behavior (p.13). Thus, it is clear that the most suitable approach is the psychological approach. This study employs psychological approach because the primary discussion of this study is the motivation of Holly’s motivation to live her life.

C. Method of the Study

Library research was used as the research method to gather the primary and secondary data. It means that the data were gained from notes and analyzing the novel from the reliable data. The writer took some stages in order to
accomplish the study.

The first stage was choosing the novel as the primary data of the study. The writer chose Cecilia Ahern’s *P. S. I Love You* as the primary data of the study. In order to understand the novel deeply, the novel was read for several times. During the understanding process of novel, the writer could observe what things that made Holly struggle. After understanding the novel, the problems were found out which could be analyzed and were formulated in the problem formulation. The formulated problems became the basic to analyze what made Holly struggle to have strength and beliefs to live her life and also what motivated Holly to struggle to live her life.

The second stage was collecting some books and references supporting the analysis and answers of the research questions. Since the topic of the study was related to the psychological approach and motivation, the writer collected some books of Psychological Approach, Psychological Theory, and many other related to this.
CHAPTER 4
ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of two parts. The first part explains about the characters of Holly. This part aims to answer the first question. The second part is about the motivation of Holly to live her life after her beloved husband passed away. This explanation is intended to answer the both questions.

A. The Portrayal of Holly

Abrams (1999) describes character as the persons presented in a narrative work whose moral, dispositional, and emotional qualities are perceived from their speech and actions. Characters may remain stable or undergo changes through the story. Hence, Abrams divides it into major or main character and minor character. Main character presents himself in the story from the beginning to the end and plays an important role in it. He should be able to draw the readers’ attention through his behavior, attitude, action, and speech. Based on Abrams’s theory, Holly’s character is categorized as a main character, who becomes a focus of attention through the story. Her experiences may happen in real life. Holly presents herself in the story from the beginning to the end and plays an important role in it. She is able to draw the readers’ attention because the story is all about the way of her to live after her beloved husband’s death and what motivations she has to live her life.
Foster (2002) states a round character is a complex character. It has differences in temperament and motivation and is represented with subtle particularly: such a character is difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like real person. Holly’s character is also categorized as a round character because she is represented with subtle particularly; she experiences the changing of temperament and motivation through the story. Her heart is fragile after Gerry dies, but she learns to mourn her loss and she can be stronger to live her life.

Characterization is an important part; it helps the reader to understand the main character deeper. Characterization is a process where the characters in the novel are portrayed as if they are real people and they live in the real world. Murphy (1972) explains several ways used by the author to describe characters; those are personal description, other characters’ opinion, speech, past life, conversation of others, reactions, direct comment, thought, and mannerism. In this novel, Holly’s characteristics are analyzed using Murphy’s theory.

In term of personal description, the author describes Holly Kennedy as young, beautiful and married to the love of her life, a passionate, funny and impetuous Irishman named Gerry. “Sharon and John had married the same year as Holly and Gerry. Holly was the baby of the bunch at twenty-three, the rest were twenty-four. Some said she was too young and lectured her about how, at her age, she should be traveling the world and enjoying herself (p. 9).” Some people might think Holly is ugly because she is so messy after she losses her beloved husband. “She looked ugly. She had black circles under her eyes, her lips were chapped and
chewed on and her hair was a disaster (p. 22).” Her body becomes so thin because she feels so depressed. She loses so much weight. She realizes that when she is wearing her track suit, she pulls the waist tie to its tightest but it drops to her hips.

The truth Holly is a beautiful woman with blonde hair. She looks so ugly just because she is so depressed after her beloved husband dies. If she wants to make up her life, the first thing that she has to do is make up her appearance. She goes to a beauty salon. Holly leaves the salon and going to her parent’s house even she does not realize how beautiful she until a few men cannot take their eyes of Holly. "Holly bounced out of the salon with delight. Without Gerry's presence beside her, a few men looked her way, something that was alien to her and made her feel uncomfortable, so she ran to the safety of her car and prepared herself for her parents' house (p. 26).” Holly gets so fresh with her new style, she looks great in front of her beloved mom and her mom loves it because Holly looks so beautiful and great.

The ways used by the author to describe Holly’s characters also seen in term of past life. In this novel the author gives comment regarding Holly’s sadness after Gerry’s death.

At the first page of Holly’s love story, the future seems so bright but now it is turning evil because her beloved husband passes away. Gerry gets brain tumor. After few weeks Gerry lies in hospital, his condition gets worse. Gerry’s death and his perfect fading smiles are all that is left at Holly’s sight. They make plans to grow old together but there is no truth in those entire stories that they share. Holly never expects it will arrive soon, then comes time to say goodbye.
Holly’s heart gets broken, she lifts her hands praying heaven will be open widely and hold him tight. She hopes Gerry hear she cries. After Gerry’s funeral, Holly is lying in her room and she is still hopping Gerry were lying there too because it is hard to deal with the pain of losing Gerry.

After conducting the analysis of Holly’s personal description, Holly is characterized as a loving, tough, persistent woman. Murphy (1972) states that characters may reveal themselves through speech and action, and reinforces their self-delineation by the comments and judgments of the other characters in the story. Holly’s characteristics are revealed into some characteristics, as follows:

1. **Loving**

She loves Gerry so much even though sometimes she gets angry easily with Gerry. She takes her times to take care of Gerry. In the hospital she always listens to Gerry. She can always feel what Gerry feels even he tries to hide the feeling by only looking his eyes.

When he was very sick he would bravely joke about how he shouldn't have lived life so safely. Should have taken drugs, should have drunk more, should have traveled more, should have jumped out of airplanes while waxing his legs... his list went on. Even as he laughed about it Holly could see the regret in his eyes (p. 2)

After Gerry dies, Holly still feels that her husband is still alive. Holly always wears her mariage ring to show that she is Gerry’s wife. It shows that Holly is a loyal wife even though her husband is dead, she always remembers her beloved husband (pp. 201-202).
Holly even quits for her job because she wants to take care of Gerry. She does not want to miss every single time with Gerry. In the 7th letter from Gerry, it is written “Shoot for the moon, and if you miss you'll still be among the stars. Promise me you will find a job you like this time! PS, I love you (p.291)”. It shows that she is jobless and she has to find a new job to live her life. She applies for a job at magazine company and she has an interview with the boss of the company, Mr. Feeney. When the boss wants to know why Holly is jobless, Holly answer that she has to take care of her husband (pp. 321-322).

Holly always tries to give what Gerry wants even sometimes it is a ridiculous thing. The reason is just because she loves Gerry so much. Holly offers a breakfast for Gerry but he wants ice cream. Holly goes to buy it for Gerry even she has to go outside in the morning just to buy ice cream (p. 460).

Holly’s love for Gerry never dies. Gerry is someone who is irreplaceable in her heart. In Gerry’s last letter, she is demanded to make another story and not to be afraid to fall in love again. “Don't be afraid to fall in love again. Open your heart and follow where it leads you (p. 468).” She meets Daniel, a right man in the right time, and Daniel loves Holly. But when he says he loves Holly, she cannot accept his love because Holly’s heart still belongs to Gerry.

“NO DANIEL, THIS ISN'T RIGHT,” Holly said,…… “Too soon because that's what people have been telling you, or too soon because that's what your heart's telling you?” “Oh Daniel, I don't know!” she said, pacing the kitchen floor. “I'm so confused. Please stop asking me so many questions!” Her heart beat wildly and her head spun, even her body was telling her this wasn't a good situation to be in. It was panicking for her, allowing her to see that danger was ahead. This felt wrong, it all felt so wrong. “I can't, Daniel, I'm married! I love Gerry!” she said in a panic (p. 465).
She wrestles with the possibility of starting a new romance. She’s not ready to find a new love because all she wants to do is find a way back into Gerry’s love. Based on Holly’s reaction she is categorized as a loving woman.

2. Tough

Holly feels that Gerry is still by her side by reading his letter. Even it is really hard to face the truth but loving Gerry is all what Holly wants. After Gerry’s burial, Holly gets ten letters for Gerry. It really hurts the most because she lives alone without Gerry and Holly has to read all of the letters and do all of Gerry’s demands each month that arouse all of the memory remain. By reading each of Gerry’s letters, Holly’s heart is being tempted to be tough. She cannot imagine her husband who is no longer by her side still takes care of her and helps her to make her days.

My darling Holly,
I don't know where you are or when exactly you are reading this. I just hope that my letter has found you safe and healthy. You whispered to me not long ago that you couldn't go on alone.
You can, Holly. You are strong and brave and you can get through this. We shared some beautiful times together and you made my life . . . you made my life. I have no regrets. But I am just a chapter in your life, there will be many more. Remember our wonderful memories, but please don't be afraid to make some more.
Thank you for doing me the honor of being my wife. For everything, I am eternally grateful.
Whenever you need me, know that I am with you.
Love Forever,
Your husband and best friend,
Gerry
PS, I promised a list, so here it is. The following envelopes must be opened exactly when labeled and must be obeyed. And remember, I'm looking out for you, so I will know (Pp. 32-33).
Once again tears fill Holly’s eyes, she remembers about the thing they used to have, a little disagreement about who will turn off the lamp before they sleep.

The sixth letter comes during Holly’s vacation. Holly hopes Gerry will be okay although he is so far away.

Hi Holly, I hope you're having a wonderful holiday. You're looking beautiful in that bikini, by the way! I hope I picked the right place for you, it's the place you and I almost went for our honeymoon, remember? Well, I'm glad you got to see it in the end . . .

Apparently, if you stand at the very end of the beach near the rocks across from your hotel, and look around the corner to the left, you'll see a lighthouse. I'm told that's where the dolphins gather . . . not many people know that. I know you love dolphins . . . tell them I said hi . . .

PS, I love you, Holly (pp.271-272).

Holly is trembling because after she reads the letter, she feels Gerry is there watching her, never leaving her side. Holly goes to the end of the beach. She is very glad because Gerry leads her to the place. Holly enjoys the sunset and the waves. She believes Gerry is there for her and she can feel it in her heart.

Holly is afraid to open the eighth letter from Gerry because it is October. It means there are only two letters that is left for two next months. She cannot imagine how she could live without Gerry’s letter. She reads the letter and she gets a sunflower seed from Gerry. She has to plan some more (p.382). Holly knows that Gerry were here a while ago, it is hard to be stuck with the one that she loves. Holly starts to wipe her tears and putting her head up. There is nothing she can do to bring Gerry back but doing all of his demands is the best thing that she can do. She plants the sunflower seed because it represents Gerry because Gerry wants to brighten Holly’s day.
November is coming and Holly knows this is the last second letter from Gerry. Holly reads the letter and finally she’s ready to the dance party that will be held on the last day of November. “Cinderella must go to the ball this month. And she will look glamorous and beautiful and have the time of her life just like always . . . But no white dresses this year . . . PS, I love you (p.442).” At the dance party, Holly gets a bad feeling, she’s afraid if all the people will ask where Gerry is. At the first time Holly arrives at the dance party, there’s a friend who says sorry for Gerry. And then at the bar, a man asks Holly where Gerry is, because he has prepared a wine for Gerry (p. 383). Everyone in that place asks Holly where Gerry is, it’s hard to answer but it seems that right now Holly is strong enough to let her friends know that Gerry has passed by. She is tough enough right now to answer all those questions. Based on Holly’s speech, she is categorized as a tough woman.

3. **Persistent**

Holly is persistent because she can always do something even it is beyond her boundaries. When she reads Gerry’s letter, she is demanded to do karaoke by Gerry. “I am not doing it for you, for me or for world peace. I hate karaoke! (p. 79)” She realizes she hates karaoke, but she keeps trying because her friends and family support her.

Next example is when Holly has to get rid all of his stuff. Holly loves to wear Gerry’s outfit, she can feel Gerry hugs her by smelling his scent from the outfit. That would be a bad habit for her, in the 4th letter from Gerry, she is demanded to get rid all of those stuff. She knows she cannot do it, it is too
difficult for her, but finally she can do it, she realizes she cannot leave beneath the shadow of her past (p. 140).

Holly’s persistent is also showed after she reads the 7th letter from Gerry. She has to find a job because she is jobless. Gerry has died; she cannot live if she has no money.

Holly read and reread the letter, trying to discover how it made her feel. She had been dreading going back to work for such a long time now, had believed that she wasn't ready to move on, that it was too soon. But now she knew she had no choice. It was time. And if Gerry said it was to be, it would be. Holly's face broke into a smile. “I promise, Gerry,” she said happily. Well, it was no holiday to Lanzarote, but at least it was one step further to getting her life back on track. She studied his writing for a long time after reading it, as she always did, and when she was satisfied with the fact she had analyzed every word, she rushed over to the kitchen drawer, took out a notepad and pen and began to write her own list of possible jobs (p.292).

She needs to earn money to live her life. Holly knows it is difficult to find the right job because she has been jobless over a year, and maybe it will be a big question mark for a company to employ her. She is doubtful to move on but she believes in Gerry. She believes she can do it. Based on Holly’s reaction she is categorized as a persistent woman.

B. Holly’s Motivation to Live Her Life Better

According to Petri (1979), motivation is the concept we use when we describe the forces acting on or within an organism to initiate and direct behavior. The concept of motivation is also used to explain differences in the intensity of behavior. More intense behaviors are considered to be the result of higher levels
of motivation. Additionally, we often use the concept of motivation to indicate the direction of behavior.

Referring to the concept of motivation to indicate the direction behavior, this part tries to find out Holly’s motivation to live her life without her beloved husband, Gerry. As it is described at the previous section, Holly is a loving woman who loves her husband with all her heart. Holly is a tough woman who always tries to face the truth even it suffers. Holly is persistent because she can always do something even it is beyond her boundaries. It is reflected so many times after she reads Gerry’s letters. Every time she reads she will cry because she remembers all the things about Gerry. She used to tears but after that she can move on, her tears turn to joy because she knows everything that Gerry plans is important for her though sometimes it hurts. The plans will lead Holly into brighter future. In the end of the novel, finally Holly can stand by own her feet because she has a passion to face the solitary moment of her life.

According to McClelland (1985), there are four kinds of motive systems. Achievement motive, the power motive, the affiliative motive and the avoidance motive (p. 227). The achievement motive and the affiliative motive are applied because these motive systems are the most suitable to describe the motivation of Holly to live her life better after her husband’s death.

This part is divided into two parts. The first part is the achievement motive. This achievement motive elaborates the reason why Holly wants to live her life without her beloved husband. The second part is affiliative motive in order
to explain about Holly’s motivation to live her life without her beloved husband, Gerry.

1. Achievement Motive

Murray (1965) states individuals with high achievement motive will automatically do better on any and all tasks. It is also stated by McClelland (1985) what should be involved in the achievement motive is doing something better for its own sake, for the intrinsic satisfaction of doing something better.

Referring to the theory above, the analysis begins when Holly is mourning her loss after her beloved husband passed away. She always cries when she remember her husband. She cries herself a thousand times, she feels alone in this world. No one can understand her better than Gerry. This moment is like a big surprise for Holly, she never thinks that there would not be a time for them to say goodbye. “Gerry was gone and he would never be back. That was the reality (p. 1).” She cannot forget the way Gerry makes her happy; she is so lost without Gerry. She realizes Gerry will not come back again.

Gerry would not be happy with this, she thought. She took a deep breath, dried her eyes and tried to shake some sense into herself. No, Gerry would not be pleased at all. Just as she had every other night for the past few weeks, Holly fell into a fitful sleep in the early hours of the morning. Each day she found herself sprawled uncomfortably across some piece of furniture; today it was the couch. (p.3).

The lines above are taken from the first chapter of the novel, sets in her apartment, where Holly is crying because she feels so hopeless after losing Gerry. All of the stuffs, every room, and each of corners of her apartment remind her about her beloved husband, Gerry. She has to survive from her pain and move on
to make up her life because she knows Gerry would not be pleased if she gives up. Holly’s will to survive from her pain is doing something better for its own sake, for the intrinsic satisfaction of doing something better.

Holly’s achievement motivation is also affected by extrinsic motivation. Huffman and Vernoy (2000) state extrinsic motivation is a desire to exhibit an action because of the external rewards and avoidance of punishment. It means this motivation comes from reward which will be benefit for someone, such as money, certificate, or status. There is not enjoyment in this motivation. Someone only does something for the reward given not for his satisfaction. Holly’s extrinsic motivation begins when she reads the first letter from her beloved husband. Holly gets a phone call from her mom several weeks after Gerry’s burial. Her mom worries about the condition of her daughter. Her mom calls her just for knowing that her daughter will be fine at all. At the end of the conversation, her mom tells her there are letters from Gerry. Holly decides to go to her parent’s house to check the letters. A package is marked “The List.” After Holly reads the list, she remembers that Gerry has kept his promise, and inside this package are ten envelopes to be opened over a period of ten months.

Each letter offers specific instructions to guide Holly through grief, and ultimately grant her permission to return to life. Now she remembers that they have a joke, if anything ever happened to Gerry, he would have to write her a list or else she'd never be able to cope without him. The letters makes Holly live her life because by those letters Gerry leads Holly to conquer the pain of losing him. She wants to do everything that she is demanded through the letters because it is a
desire to exhibit an action for her sake and as a satisfaction in doing Gerry’s demands well. This great willingness soon affects Holly to achieve something better in her life.

Murray (1965) states motivation is distinguished from other factors that also influence behavior, such as the past experience of the person, his physical capabilities, and the environmental situation in which he finds himself, although these other factors may influence motivation.

In terms of environmental situation, Holly’s motivation to live her life is begun by the environmental situation in which she finds herself,” All that was left was a bundle of memories and an image of his face that became more and more vague each day (p.1).” From the sentences, Holly is all alone facing the inconvenient truth that her beloved husband is no longer by her side. She cannot touch and hold Gerry. She no longer can share sweet and tender moment with Gerry. She wishes Gerry could see her and takes all of her sorrows. Misery is what Holly feels when Gerry is not around. Her heart is bleeding because love of her life is gone. Gerry will not catch her when she falls like in this situation. She is born to love Gerry but now she is torn because nothing to do after Gerry’s death. Every breath that Gerry takes every time he is by her side will bring Holly’s life into her deepest hope of her life, getting old together as a phase in their life. She is tired of being all alone; she knows she will never find someone like Gerry.

McClelland (1985) has stated that people who has a strong achievement motive would prefer being personally responsible for a performance result,
because only under such conditions could they feel satisfaction from doing something better. The characteristic of high achiever that McClelland proposed is similar with Holly’s personality. She has a strong motivation in doing something and becomes responsible to do it because she knows it is better for her to do. It is proved by her willingness to find a job when she reads the 7th letter from Gerry. Gerry tells her through the letter that she will get a new job (p. 291). This is the first step to make a change in her life. This is a better way to lead her life back into normal condition.

Referring to Maslow’s Hierarchical Theory of Motivation, Holly’s need to live in a normal condition is a safety need. Maslow explains safety need is the preference for a job that provides a financial protection, the establishments of saving accounts, and the acquisition of insurance may be regarded as motivated in part by safety seeking. She tries to find job list through internet. Finally, she applies for job at magazine company. In the day of interview she is so nervous because she has been jobless for almost one year. She meets the boss of the company. Next few days, Holly gets a phone call directly from the boss; he welcomes Holly as the new member of the magazine company. She believes that this will be the new opportunity and she will get this job for making money to live her life and Gerry’s demand in September is accomplished.

McClelland (1985) also states that the characteristic of a person who has a strong achievement motive is affected by the need of the feedback and willingness doing innovativeness. It is proved when Holly opens the 8th letter from Gerry she is worried, because there are only ten letters. It means there are two letters left.
She realizes the letters are addicted. She feels that Gerry is by her side every time she reads a letter and re-reads the letter but sooner or later it will be over. After that there is no other letter from Gerry. This addiction will make Holly’s life ruined but she realizes that she still has to live without Gerry and his letters after Holly has a big argument with Daniel

“Gerry?” he asked, his eyes widening as he went over to the kitchen table and grabbed the envelope roughly. “This is Gerry! This is what I'm competing with! It's a piece of paper, Holly. It's a list. A list you have allowed to run your life for the past year without having to think for yourself or live your own life. Now you have to think for yourself, right now (p. 465-466).

Referring to Maslow’s Hierarchical Theory of Motivation, Holly’s need is self-esteem need. Maslow states self-esteem includes such things as desire for competence, confidence, personal strength, adequacy, achievement, independence, and freedom. An individual needs to know whether he is capable of mastering tasks and challenges in life. Esteem from others includes prestige, recognition, acceptance, attention, status, fame, reputation, and appreciation. In this case, people need to be appreciated for what they can do. Satisfaction of the self-esteem needs lead to feelings and attitudes of self-confidence, self-worth, strength, capability, and the sense of being useful and necessary in the world.

Holly has thought about it before Daniel mocks her about the letters. After the argument Holly starts to think about Daniel’s words. Holly understands that she is the master of her own life; she will live her own life and die her own death. Gerry will live inside her heart even there are no more letters from her. Holly has to move on to make another story of her own life and follow where her heart leads her to. “Whatever lay ahead, she knew she would open her heart and follow where
it led her. In the meantime, she would just live (p. 503).” She has not ready to find a new love now, she only thinks she will live her life with or without Gerry because she has family and friends who love and always support her. She will obey Gerry’s last demand to find a new love even it takes a long time.

2. **Affiliative Motive**

According to McClelland, the word *love* is commonly used to describe various types of affiliative ties, and everyone agrees that it is important to satisfy the love need. In terms of to satisfy the love need means Holly needs love or affection from other people.

She would never again run her fingers through his soft hair, never share a secret joke across the table at a dinner party, never cry to him when she got home from a hard day at work and just needed a hug; she would never share a bed with him again, never be woken up by his fits of sneezes each morning, never laugh with him so much her stomach would ache, never fight with him about whose turn it was to get up and turn the bedroom light off (p. 1).

Referring to Maslow’s Hierarchical Theory of Motivation, Holly’s need is a part of belongingness and love needs. Maslow states when an individual is able to fulfill the physiological needs and has already felt secure, the next is he will struggle to fulfill the belongingness and love needs. Included in this subject is the need for affectionate relationships with others, a place in his family and or reference groups. Holly has lost the most important person in her life. It shows the needs of affection from husband for Holly. In Holly’s life, she feels alone because her beloved husband has passed away. She feels she is lost and weak without him; no one can treat Holly like Gerry what has done.

McClelland (1985) has explained there are five characteristic of people
with strong affiliation motives. They are; performing better when affiliative incentives are present, maintaining interpersonal networks, cooperation, conformity, and conflict, fear of rejection, and managerial behavior.

Holly has a characteristic of strong affiliative motive, which is showed by performing better when the affiliative incentives are present. McClelland has stated that individuals with a strong affiliative motive will perform better on tasks that do not involve affiliative content as the incentive in the situation is shifted from achievement to affiliation.

In finding the motivation to live her life it is affected by intrinsic motivation as Huffman and Vernoy state that extrinsic motivation is a desire to exhibit an action because of the external rewards and avoidance of punishment. It means this motivation comes from reward which will be benefit for someone, such as money, certificate, or status. There is not enjoyment in this motivation. Someone only does something for the reward given not for his satisfaction. It means that this motivation comes from Gerry’s demands. There is not a real reward (money, certificate, or status) for his work but the reward is from his heart, his satisfaction in doing something well because Gerry’s demands help Holly to live her life and lead her to conquer the pain of losing Gerry. The reason of it can be said as achievement motive. Then, Holly shifts it to be affiliative motives after she realizes that she needs to satisfy the love need. Her family and friends are the people who can satisfy Holly’s love need. She needs the family and friends in her life. They are important because through the people around her, it will be easy for Holly to live and they will always give her motivation when she feels sad.
The second characteristic that McClelland has proposed is maintaining interpersonal networks. As mentioned before, Holly likes to spend her time alone in her apartment. She does not want to maintain a relationship with others, because she is afraid and she cannot face the truth that her beloved husband is gone. She cannot pretend to her friends that she is alright.

Sharon tries to give her advice and listening all of Holly stories. She feels happy because she can share about what she feels with her friend. After Holly meets Sharon, she starts to change her mind because Sharon gives her perspective about what Holly should do. She knows that Gerry would not be pleased if she cannot face the truth; she wants to make up her relationship with her family and friends and try to tell the whole world that she will be fine without Gerry. She will not feel alone because she has good friends who always support her, a family who care of her and it makes her life so precious to live.

The last characteristic is fear of rejection; because of her greed to spend all of her time alone without thinking about the others who always worry about her makes her understand that she should maintain a good relationship with others. Holly has experienced loneliness over and over. She is still young but she is being a widow now, her beloved husband died because a brain tumor. It makes her become so depressed. She knows she has to move on and overcomes her loneliness. Her family and friends are worried because she does not feel so right and always to be alone. Her relationships with others are degenerated. Her family and friends always try to support her, but Holly does not even care about that. Holly likes to spend her times alone in her apartment, to remember all of those
memories between Gerry and her. She feels everything missing every time her eyes blink. She is always annoyed by a phone call by either her family or friends. “Once again it was the phone call from a concerned friend or family member that woke her up (p. 3).” Her family, especially her mom is worried about Holly’s condition, she always makes a phone call every morning just to know that Holly can pass one night. Holly’s mother tells hell that she has to take a strange envelope but she always takes it for granted.

Holly waved to Sharon as she pulled away in her car. It was nearly dark. They had spent the day laughing and joking about old times, then crying, followed by some more laughing, then more crying again. Sharon gave her perspective, too. Holly hadn't even thought about the fact that Sharon and John had lost their best friend, that her parents had lost their son-in-law and Gerry's parents had lost their only son. She had just been so busy thinking about herself. It had been good being around the living again instead of moping around with the ghosts of her past. Tomorrow was a new day and she intended to begin it by collecting that envelope (p.21).

Referring to McClelland, subjects high in n Affiliation are anxious about their relations with others, fear disapproval, and spend time seeking reassurance from others, which makes them unpopular. After realizing how greedy she is, Holly feels so guilty. She has hurt her family and friends because she does not want to hear them. Holly starts to change her mind after she meets Sharon. They start to share about their feeling. Holly can appreciate her family and friends who always try to help her and make her smile. Thus, it is clear that Holly has affiliatives motives as seen as McClelland theories about the characteristic of high need of love.

Hjelle and Ziegler (1981) explain Maslow’s Hierarchical Theory of Motivation. Maslow believes that much of human behavior could be explained by
the individual’s tendency to seek personal goal states that make life rewarding and meaningful. Maslow proposes that human desires are innate and that they are arranged in an ascending hierarchy of priority or potency, those are basic psychological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization or personal fulfillment needs. When an individual is able to fulfill the physiological needs and has already felt secure, the next is he will struggle to fulfill the belongingness and love needs. Included in this subject is the need for affectionate relationships with others, a place in his family and/or reference groups.

According to the theory, Holly’s safety need is shown when she tries to find job list through internet. Finally, she applies for job at magazine company. She believes that this will be a new opportunity and she will get this job for making money to live her life. Holly’s self-esteem needs shown when she understands that she is the master of her own life; she will live her own life and die her own death. Gerry will live inside her heart even there are no more letters from her. Holly has to move on to make another story of her own life and follow where her heart leads her to. Holly’s belongingness and love needs shown when Holly has lost the most important person in her life. It shows the needs of affection from husband for Holly. In Holly’s life, she feels alone because her beloved husband has passed away. She feels she is lost and weak without him; no one can treat Holly like Gerry did. She will not feel alone because she has good friends who always support her, a family who cares for her and it makes her life worth to live.
CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATION, AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of three parts, namely conclusions, implication, and suggestions. The conclusions concern with the answer of the questions stated in problem formulation. The next part, implications, provides ideas and reflections on the result of the study which are related to education in general. The last part, suggestion, is given for the future research related to the study.

A. Conclusions

Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, some conclusions can be drawn. The first point is about Holly’s character and characterization. The second one deals with Holly’s motivation to live her life after her beloved husband passes away. According to the theory of character, Holly is categorized as a major character since she plays a big role from the beginning of the story. Holly is also a flat character. In analyzing Holly’s personality, this study applies four methods of characterization purposed by Murphy. They are thoughts, speech, reaction, and mannerism.

Holly is a loving woman. She loves Gerry so much even though sometimes she gets angry easily with Gerry. She takes her times to take care of Gerry, in the hospital she always listens to Gerry. She can always feel what Gerry feels even he tries to hide the feeling by only looking his eyes. After Gerry passes away, she still feels that Gerry is still alive. She does not want to have a love affair with other men. She always wears her marrying ring to show that he is
Gerry’s wife. It shows that Holly is a loyal wife even though her husband is dead, she always remembers her beloved husband.

Holly is a tough woman. Gerry has already passed away, but by reading his letter, Holly feels that Gerry is still by her side. It is really hard to face the truth, now Holly cannot see Gerry but loving Gerry is all what Holly is trying to do. After Gerry’s burial, Holly gets ten letters for Gerry, it really hurts the most because she lives alone without Gerry and Holly has to read all of the letters and do all of Gerry’s demand each month that arouse all of the memory remain. Through the letters, Holly’s heart is being tempted. She cannot imagine her husband who is no longer by her side still takes care of her and helps her to make her days.

Holly is a persistent woman. It can be seen from her actions to do the things that beyond her boundaries. It is shown after Gerry dies; Holly is jobless, she cannot live if she has no money. She needs money to continue her life. Holly knows it is difficult to find the right job because she has been jobless over a year, and maybe it will be a big question mark for a company to employ her. She is doubt to move on but she believes in Gerry, she believes she can do it.

The second conclusion is the motivation of Holly to live her life. There are two motives that Holly has. First is the achievement motive. Holly’s motivation is affected by her condition of being left by her beloved husband. She wants to live her life normally like the other people after she loses her husband. She wants to achieve something that she has before just like when she lives with her husband and tries to face the inconvenient truth that gives her bitter. That is why the
achievement motive is appropriate to describe the motivation of Holly to live her life. Second is Holly needs love and affection from other people around her to live her life since the love of her life is gone; it motivates to live her life. The love and affection from her family and friends make her do more efforts for better life after her beloved husband dies. When she does all of Gerry’s demands through his ten letters and Holly’s wills to do them are affected by extrinsic motivation. She does not want to disappoint her family and friends who always support her and take care of her. She believes Gerry plans something better for her in order to help to live after Gerry dies. At the end of the story Holly realizes that she never regrets all the things that she has done over a year after her beloved husband dies. Gerry’s plans make her able to live normally like other people. She can find a new job to earn for her living. Gerry’s demands makes Holly realize the people around her love her and always give her affection. They always support her when Holly feels so desperate in carrying one Gerry’s plans. This affiliative motive appears after the achievement motive. Affiliative motive is a reflection that Holly’s needs to live her life are belongingness and love needs. Thus, the achievement motive affects the other motive that becomes the reason for finding Holly’s motivation to live her life worth living.

B. Implications

This section provides the implications of the study to education which can be drawn from P.S. I Love You novel. They are not only for English education but also education in general. The implication of the story is related to the value of love and loyalty.
There are values in life. The examples are love and loyalty. Nowadays love and loyalties are easy to break. Moreover, in a marriage people become more selfish. They will easily forget the meaning of love and loyalty if their lover has gone. Most of them only appreciate their lover only when he or she exists. In solving this kind of problem, young generation needs teaching about life values. It starts from the parents because children feel the love and loyalty from family first. The parents’ explanation and examples about love and loyalty will give a big influence to the children. Love and loyalty can also be acquired by formal lecturing by using a set of teaching theories. Literature, as one of the ways, can be used to present life values. Cecilia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You* is a good novel to increase student’s morality because this novel gives many life values. The examples are about love and loyalty. Readers will get many benefits by reading this novel, they are shown another world which they never knew before and they can also learn about others values of life by reading this novel.

Literature has an important role in learning a language. Through literary works students learn the language and also experience the value of life from other world. Since literature is important, the researcher suggests the activities that could be implemented to teach English language through literature from Cecilia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You*. This part discusses the implementation of Cecilia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You* as the material in English Language Teaching. Basic reading will be field of implementation. Through a novel, the authors present their idea about particular things in life. In relation with teaching and learning activities, learning to understand and how to interpret the author’s ideas may give benefits for the
students, such as: improving their English ability, getting the values and lessons of life, and the most important thing is learning how to express their own ideas and opinions better.

However, there are several criteria in choosing appropriate literary work to language teaching. Referring to Cecilia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You*, it can be seen that the novel is long enough and presents complex and various kind of dictions. Therefore, the novel is suitable for students of advanced level who already master sufficient vocabulary and have proficiency to read the novel.

In basic reading, the teacher should create such an atmosphere in which the students feel free to express and share their ideas. One of the ways is by providing a topic that interests the students to participate in the discussion. A novel can be used as the topic if it is used and chosen appropriately. Cecilia Ahern’s *P.S. I Love You* can be used to teach speaking through two activities: discussion and presentation. These activities are able to encourage the students to speak up and share their ideas and opinions both in the group and in front of the class.

C. **Suggestions**

*P.S. I Love You* is an interesting novel. The way of Cecilia Ahern presents the relationships between characters seems real. The reader can feel Holly’s pain of her loss all throughout the book. The reader can understand the way Holly live her life through her loss and it is glad to find them fairly well written. There are more discussions that can be discussed out in this novel. In this study, the
researcher has discussed the character of Holly and her way to live her life after she loses her beloved husband. For future researchers, the meaning of love as a wife for Holly can be one of the topics for discussion.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES
Appendix 1

**SUMMARY OF P.S. I LOVE YOU**

The story sets in Ireland. Holly Kennedy is young, beautiful and married to the love of her life, a passionate, funny and impetuous Irishman named Gerry. So when Gerry dies because of illness, it takes the life out of Holly. The only one who can help her is the person who is no longer by her side. Nobody knows Holly better than Gerry, so it is a good thing he plans ahead. Before he dies, Gerry writes Holly a series of 10 letters that will guide her, not only through her grief but in rediscovering herself. The messages are Gerry's way of informing Holly to manage her life. The messages include various tasks and treats Gerry has left for Holly. This is his way of letting her know he will always be there for her. Each letter sends her on a new adventure which slowly moulds her into a new person. Each signs off in the same way: "P.S. I Love You." Holly's mother and best friends, Sharon and Denise, begin to worry that Gerry's letters are keeping Holly tied to the past, but, in fact, each letter is pushing her further into a new future, making her stronger and helping her to move on into a bright future.

After Holly reads Gerry’s first letter she cannot take few tears, Holly just let them out. She cannot imagine that Gerry still helps her to live her day without him. Holly feels that Gerry’s still by her side. The second letter comes at the end of April is Holly’s birthday. Holly takes the letter when she is with her friends, Sharon and John. Gerry writes that Holly has to buy a new outfit; it will be the need of her next month.
She stares at her friends and smiling because she knows that her beloved husband Gerry will help her to live her day at least for next ten months.

The third letter asks Holly to go to Club Diva, the best place to do karaoke. Holly gets the third turn in the karaoke competition; she sings Gerry’s favorite song called ‘I need somebody to love’. Unfortunately Holly makes it not good enough but her family and friend support her. She believes that Gerry is watching her from above, she’s really happy because she can do what Gerry’s demand to her. In this Club Diva Holly knows a man named Daniel, he is a worker at that club. As the time goes by, the will be a good friend even more than just a good friend.

June brings the forth letter for Holly. She is getting used to live without Gerry. The better she thinks it is okay, the worst it will be. Holly is starting to pack Gerry’s belongings. Holly cannot believe that the rest of Gerry’s life is in those twenty plastic bags. She cannot refuse the chance to miss Gerry in every single touch on Gerry’s belongings. Finally she realizes that this will never end if she keeps all those things, Gerry’s right. He will be the guardian angel for Holly, he will be there watching her from way up high. She doesn’t need those things anymore just to feel Gerry’s embrace.

In this early July Holly spends her time at her house. She opens the fifth letter, Gerry asks her to get a vacation. Gerry has bought a vacation trip for Holly and her friends to Lanzarote, Spain for one week. It’s a big surprise for Holly and her friends and it will be the best one-week holiday. They all are very happy. They go with an air plane and they will spend the night at Costa Palma Place. The hotel is located near the
beach, so every day they can spend their time for sun bathing. They are all having
good times at the beach; they just enjoy their vacation with laugh and smile. The
important thing in this weekend is Gerry is trying to make Holly feels happiness after
her loss. Gerry plans a great holiday for Holly; she can enjoy her times the rest of the
day at the beach. The sixth letter comes during Holly’s vacation, she hopes Gerry will
be okay although he is so far away, miles away from her. Holly is trembling because
after she reads the letter, she feels Gerry there watching her, never leaving her side.
Holly goes to the end of the beach. She’s watching the dolphins chat each other. She
is very glad because Gerry leads her to the place. Holly’s enjoying the sunset and the
waves. She believes Gerry’s there for her and she can feel it in her heart. Holly wants
Gerry to know that there’s a girl at the beach that cannot stop calling his name and
thinking of him. This holiday is the best holiday Holly ever had.

Holly has experienced a great holiday last month. This is September; Holly
reads the 7th letter from Gerry. She tries to find job list through internet. Finally, she
applies at magazine company. In the day of interview she’s so nervous because she
has been jobless for almost one year. She meets the boss of the company. The boss
reads her CV and asking some question to Holly. He asks her why she doesn’t work
for almost one year. Holly answers that she was nursing her husband. The boss hopes
her husband is okay now, but Holly tells that her husband just passed away because
brain tumor. The boss gives sympathy to Holly because they are still young, and he
tells her that he loses his wife because breast cancer. They have the same story about
their lover. The boss knows how it feels when our beloved one is gone. He knows that
Holly has no experience in this field, but Holly makes sure that she can do that. This month Gerry tells her through the letter that she will get a new job. She believes that this is will be the new opportunity for her and she will get this job. The boss will give a phone call to Holly later if she is accepted. Next few days, Holly gets a phone call directly from the boss; he welcomes Holly as the new member of the magazine company.

Holly is afraid to open the eighth letter from Gerry because it is October. It means there are only two letters that left for two next months. She cannot imagine how she could live without Gerry’s letter. She reads the letter and she gets sunflower seeds from Gerry. She has to plan some more. She plants the sunflower seed because it represents Gerry because Gerry wants to brighten Holly’s day. November is coming and Holly knows this is the last second letter from Gerry. Holly reads the letter and finally she’s ready to the dance party that will be held on the last day of November. At the dance party, Holly gets a bad feeling, she’s afraid if all the people will ask where Gerry is. She’s tough enough right now to answer all those questions. Holly has a chance to dance with Daniel. Holly feels so awkward to dance with another guy. She starts to feel a different feeling while she’s dancing with Daniel, she is afraid something bad will happen later on. Holly decides to go home, Daniel asks her to take her going home. At Holly’s home, Daniel says that he loves Holly. He wants her to give him chance to be with her but Holly does not answer, she needs more time to think about it. A little argument happens that night because Daniel is mocking Holly. He says that Holly cannot stand on her feet without Gerry’s letters; the letters are just
like ‘ten commandment’ from God that should be obeyed. The point is Daniel is sick of Gerry, because the dead man is the only a rival for him.

Holly cries herself again that night after Daniel leaves her. She wishes she can read the last letter with Gerry holding her tight. Holly reads the last letter slowly and finally she cries again. She wrestles with the possibility of starting a new romance. She’s not ready to find a new love because all she wants to do is find a way back into Gerry’s love. In the end she realizes life does go on. Her husband wants her to be independent. She cannot do Gerry’s last demand now, but she promises to do that until she finds a right man in the right time.
Appendix 2

THE BIOGRAPHY OF CECELIA AHERN

Cecelia Ahern was born on September 30, 1981 in Dublin, Ireland. She is the
daughter of Bertie Ahern, Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) since June 26, 1997, and is
the sister-in-law of Nicky Byrne of Irish popgroup Westlife, who is married to her
older sister, Georgina Ahern. In 2000, Cecelia was part of the Irish pop-group
Shimma, who finished third in the Irish national final for the Eurovision Song
Contest. Before embarking on her writing career, Cecelia Ahern completed a Degree
in Journalism and Media Communications.

At twenty-one, she wrote her debut novel PS, I Love You, published in
January 2004, which was sold to over forty countries. The novel was one of the
biggest-selling debut novels of 2004, reaching No.1 in Ireland and in the U.K.
Sunday Times bestseller list and was selected for the Richard and Judy Summer Read
campaign. It was also a bestseller throughout Europe and the U.S.A., staying on the
best-seller list in Germany for over 52 weeks. For her debut novel, she was
nominated for Best Newcomer 2004/05 at the British Book and in 2006, she was
long-listed for the IMPAC award. The film of the same title was optioned by Warner
Bros and Wendy Finerman Productions. It has now been made into a motion picture
directed by Richard LaGravenese and starring Hilary Swank, Lisa Kudrow, Kathy
Bates, Gerry Butler, Harry Connick Jr., Gina Gershon and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

In November 2004, her second book, Where Rainbows End (U.S.A.: Love,
Rosie / Rosie Dunne), also reached No.1 in Ireland and the UK, remaining at the top of the Irish bestsellers list for 12 weeks and again a bestseller internationally. For her second book, she won the 2005 Irish Post Award for Literature and a 2005 Corine Award for Where Rainbows End (Fur Immer Vielleicht), which was voted by German readers. In November 2005, her third book, If You Could See Me Now was published and also became an international bestseller. In May 2007 Cosmopolitan U.S. honoured her with a Fun Fearless Fiction Award 2007 for her thrird book. It has been optioned by SB Films (London) Producer Simon Brooks.

In October 2006, her fourth novel, A Place Called Here, was a international number one bestseller and has gone straight to No.1 in U.K. and Ireland. It was published in U.S.A. under the title There's No Place Like Here. It is optioned by Touchstone with Warren Littlefield for a TV Drama series.

Cecelia has contributed with short stories to the following anthologies for which all her royalties go to charity: Irish Girls are Back in Town, Short and Sweet, Moments, Ladies Night 4, Girls Night in 2 and she has written a novella titled Mrs. Whippy.

Other published stories are The Production Line for Express Magazine, Every Year for Harrod's Magazine, The Things That I Remember for Woman's Own, Remembering Mum for Express Magazine, Mallard and May for Woman and Home.

Cecelia also is the co-creator (along with Donald Todd) and producer of the ABC half-hour comedy television show, Samantha Who? Stars: Christina Applegate, Jean Smart, Jennifer Esposito, Barry Watson, Kevin Dunn, Melissa McCarthy and
Tim Russ. Cecelia Ahern continues living in Dublin and is currently writing her next novel.

(Taken from http://www.jacketflap.com/cecelia-ahern/167194, accessed on August 14th, 2012 at 07:11 A.M.)
Appendix 3

LESSON PLAN

Subject : Basic Reading I
Topic : Reading literary text
Semester : 1st
Time Allocation : 2 x 50’

A. Basic Competencies

The students will be able to:

1. Understand the types of the basic reading strategies (predicting, skimming, scanning, guessing word meanings from context)

2. Apply the basic reading strategies

B. Indicators

1. The students are able to identify the main idea of the text.
2. The students are able to scan for detail information of the text.
3. The students are able to guess words meaning from context

C. Teaching Learning Activities

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<tr>
<td><strong>Pre Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Students are given a picture related to the text</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students are asked to predict the topic by looking the picture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Students are given the material

<table>
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<th>Time Allocation</th>
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<td><strong>Whilst Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Students are explained about reading strategies before they read the material students read the text</td>
<td>80’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students are asked to read the text and apply the reading strategies by answering the questions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students and teacher discuss the answer for the questions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students are asked to reflect about what they have learnt today.</td>
<td>10’</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teacher gives a conclusion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teacher closes the meeting</td>
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D. Material and media
- A chapter taken from Cecelia Ahern’s *P.S I LOVE YOU*
- Handout and dictionary

E. Evaluation
The evaluation based on three exercises, written and oral.
Appendix 4

Teaching Material

Guess What?


Look at the picture and answer the questions.

1. What comes in your mind when you see this picture?

2. Have you ever done what the boy on the picture does?

3. Can you guess the relationship between the picture and the text?
4. In your opinion, what is the text about?

**LET’S SEE YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

<table>
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<td>List any sentences or main idea when you skim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Let’s See the Details**

1. What is the atmosphere of the story?

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________  
   ______________________________________________________

2. Why did Holly cry?

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

3. What is the Holly’s character that can be seen?

   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
4. What was the reason of Holly for taking care of Gerry?

5. In your opinion, what is the moral value that you learn from this story?

What’s your opinion about these love quotes?

- Even my child started to walk without any support, nut my wife still holds my hand while walking
- A wife is the joy of a man's heart
- Love is moral even without legal marriage, but marriage is immoral without love.
- There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage. - Martin Luther King
- You don't marry someone you can live with, you marry the person who you cannot live without.

~Thank You~
HOLLY HELD THE BLUE COTTON sweater to her face and the familiar smell immediately struck her, an overwhelming grief knotting her stomach and pulling at her heart. Pins and needles ran up the back of her neck and a lump in her throat threatened to choke her. Panic took over. Apart from the low hum of the fridge and the occasional moaning of the pipes, the house was quiet. She was alone. Bile rose to her throat and she ran to the bathroom, where she collapsed to her knees before the toilet.

Gerry was gone and he would never be back. That was the reality. She would never again run her fingers through his soft hair, never share a secret joke across the table at a dinner party, never cry to him when she got home from a hard day at work and just needed a hug; she would never share a bed with him again, never be woken up by his fits of sneezes each morning, never laugh with him so much her stomach would ache, never fight with him about whose turn it was to get up and turn the bedroom light off. All that was left was a bundle of memories and an image of his face that became more and more vague each day.

Their plan had been very simple. To stay together for the rest of their lives. A plan that anyone within their circle would agree was accomplishable. They were best friends, lovers and soul mates destined to be together, everyone thought. But as it happened, one day destiny greedily changed its mind.

The end had come all too soon. After complaining of a migraine for a few days, Gerry had agreed to Holly's suggestion that he see his doctor. This was done one Wednesday on a lunch break from work. The doctor thought it was due to stress or tiredness and agreed that at the very worst he might need glasses. Gerry hadn't been happy with that. He had been upset about the idea he might need glasses. He needn't have worried, since as it turned out it wasn't his eyes that were the problem. It was the tumor growing inside his brain.

Holly flushed the toilet, and shivering from the coldness of the tiled floor, she shakily steadied herself to her feet. He had been thirty years old. By no means had he been the healthiest man on the earth, but he'd been healthy enough to . . . well, to live a normal life. When he was very sick he would bravely joke about how he shouldn't have lived life so safely. Should have taken drugs, should have drunk more, should have traveled more, should have jumped out of airplanes while waxing his legs . . . his list went on. Even as he laughed about it Holly could see the
regret in his eyes. Regret for the things he never made time to do, the places he never saw, and
sorrow for the loss of future experiences. Did he regret the life he'd had with her? Holly never
doubted that he loved her, but feared he felt he had wasted precious time.
Growing older became something he wanted desperately to accomplish, rather than merely a
dreaded inevitability. How presumptuous they both had been never to consider growing old as
an achievement and a challenge. Aging was something they'd both wanted so much to avoid.
Holly drifted from room to room while she sobbed her fat, salty tears. Her eyes were red and
sore and there seemed to be no end to this night. None of the rooms in the house provided her
with any solace. Just unwelcoming silences as she stared around at the furniture. She longed for
the couch to hold out its arms to her, but even it ignored her. Gerry would not be happy with this, she thought. She took a
depth breath, dried her eyes and tried to shake some sense into herself. No, Gerry would not be pleased at all.
Just as she had every other night for the past few weeks, Holly fell into a fitful sleep in the early
hours of the morning. Each day she found herself sprawled uncomfortably across some piece of
furniture; today it was the couch. Once again it was the phone call from a concerned friend or
family member that woke her up. They probably thought that all she did was sleep. Where were
their phone calls when she listlessly roamed the house like a zombie searching the rooms for . . .
for what? What was she expecting to find?
“Hello,” she groggily answered. Her voice was hoarse from all the tears, but she had long since
stopped caring about maintaining a brave face for anyone. Her best friend was gone and nobody understood that no amount of makeup, fresh air or shopping
was going to fill the hole in her heart.
“Oh sorry, love, did I wake you?” the concerned voice of Holly's mother came across the line.
Always the same conversation. Every morning her mother called to see if she had survived the
night alone. Always afraid of waking her yet always relieved to hear her breathing; safe with the
knowledge her daughter had braved the ghosts of the night.
“No, I was just dozing, it's OK.” Always the same answer.
“Your dad and Declan have gone out and I was thinking of you, pet.” Why did that soothing,
sympathetic voice always send tears to Holly's eyes? She could picture her mother's concerned
face, eyebrows furrowed, forehead wrinkled with worry. But it didn't soothe Holly. It made her
remember why they were worried and that they shouldn't have to be. Everything should be
normal. Gerry should be here beside her, rolling his eyes up to heaven and trying to make her
laugh while her mother yapped on. So many times Holly would have to hand the phone over to
Gerry, as her fit of giggles would take over. Then he would chat away, ignoring Holly as she jumped around the bed pulling her silliest faces and doing her funniest dances just to get him back. It seldom worked. She “ummed” and “ahhed” throughout the conversation, listening but not hearing a word. “It's a lovely day, Holly. It would do you the world of good to go out for a walk. Get some fresh air.” “Um, I suppose.” There it was again, fresh air—the alleged answer to all her problems. “Maybe I'll call around later and we can have a chat.” “No thanks, Mum, I'm OK.” Silence. “Well, all right then . . . give me a ring if you change your mind. I'm free all day.” “OK.” Another silence. “Thanks, though.” “Right then . . . take care, love.” “I will.” Holly was about to replace the phone when she heard her mother's voice again. “Oh Holly, I almost forgot. That envelope is still here for you, you know, the one I told you about. It's on the kitchen table. You might want to collect it, it's been here for weeks now and it might be important.” “I doubt it. It's probably just another card.” “No, I don't think it is, love. It's addressed to you and above your name it says . . . oh, hold on while I get it from the table . . .” The phone was put down, the sound of heels on the tiles toward the table, chairs screeched against the floor, footsteps getting louder, phone being picked up . . . “You still there?” “Yeah.” “OK, it says at the top 'The List.' I'm not sure what that means, love. It's worth just taking a...” Holly dropped the phone.