

ABSTRACT

Widyaningtyas, Maria Evi. (2013). *Denny's Struggle for Life as Seen in Garth Stein's The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Sanata Dharma University.

Living in the world always deals with problems. People cannot avoid their problems. They should find the way how to overcome their problems otherwise their problems will be bigger and more complicated. People need to struggle to overcome their problems. In the novel from Garth Stein entitled *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, Denny Swift should struggle for life to overcome the problems that emerge in his life.

There are two problems formulated in this study: (1) How is Denny's character portrayed in Garth Stein's *The Art of Racing in the Rain*? and (2) Why does Denny manage to survive in his struggle for life in Garth Stein's *The Art of Racing in the Rain*?

The method used in his study is library research. The researcher uses a novel as primary data, books of literature, and the data from internet. This study uses psychological approach since the aim of this study is to analyze the main character.

Based on the analysis, there are two points that can be concluded. First, is the description of Denny Swift. From the analysis, the character of Denny Swift is portrayed as loyal, patient, diligent, competent, and caring. Second, is Denny's struggle for life. The reasons of his struggle are the sickness of his wife and the custody of Zoë. Denny manages to survive by living apart from his family, and fight for the custody of Zoë. Finally Denny can overcome his problems and move on to reach his dream.

This study also provides three suggestions for further researchers who use the same novel, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. The future researchers may analyze the minor characters that influence the major character to struggle and may use this study as reference. They also may analyze the character development of Denny Swift. The next researchers also can analyze the reason of the author using the point of view from a dog.

Key words: struggle, life, character

ABSTRAK

Widyaningtyas, Maria Evi. (2013). *Denny's Struggle for Life as Seen in Garth Stein's The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Yogyakarta: Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Selalu ada permasalahan yang terjadi dalam hidup ini. Orang tidak bisa menghindari dari permasalahan. Mereka harus menemukan cara untuk menyelesaikan permasalahan mereka, jika tidak permasalahan itu akan semakin besar dan rumit. Orang harus berjuang untuk menyelesaikan permasalahan mereka. Di dalam novel Garth Stein *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, Denny Swift harus berjuang menghadapi permasalahan dalam hidupnya.

Dalam studi ini terdapat dua permasalahan (1) Bagaimana, Denny, karakter utama dalam novel *The Art of Racing in the Rain* digambarkan? dan (2) Mengapa Denny berusaha untuk bertahan dalam berjuang untuk hidup?

Metode yang digunakan oleh peneliti adalah penelitian perpustakaan. Peneliti menggunakan novel sebagai sumber utama, buku literature, dan data dari internet. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan psikologi karena tujuan dari studi ini adalah untuk menganalisa karakter utama.

Berdasarkan analisa karakter utama ada dua hal yang dapat disimpulkan, yang pertama adalah deskripsi Denny Swift. Berdasarkan hasil analisa, karakter Denny adalah setia, sabar, tekun, kompeten dan perhatian. Kedua, Denny berjuang untuk hidup. Alasan untuk berjuang adalah sakitnya sang istri dan perebutan hak asuh Zoë. Denny berjuang dengan tinggal terpisah dari keluarganya dan berjuang mendapatkan hak asuh atas Zoë. Pada akhirnya Denny dapat berhasil menyelesaikan segala permasalahan yang dihadapinya.

Studi ini juga memberi saran untuk peneliti selanjutnya yang akan menggunakan novel *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. Peneliti selanjutnya dapat mengadakan penelitian tentang pembahasan karakter minor yang mempengaruhi perjuangan Denny, perkembangan karakter Denny, dan alasan mengapa pengarang novel menggunakan sudut pandang seekor anjing.

Kata kunci: berjuang, hidup, karakter