

An Analysis of Quality of Life in the Novels *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes and *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

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Abstract – This paper explores the different types of their lifestyle by tracing their life. *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes and *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes both are twenty-first British fiction novels. Both novels perfectly demonstrate the people's life by the authors in their way. The novel *Sense of an Ending* shows the life of the protagonist Tony Webster at a young age and a mistake he made in a letter that took his school life friend Adrian's life. And soon later Tony finds out what horrible things happened in Adrian's life and how they affect Veronica's life. *Me Before You* walk around the life of Will Traynor and Louisa Clark. How their lives change after they meet up in their life. Will is a body-paralyzed person and he wishes to end his life in six months. So his mother Camilla Traynor appoint Louisa as his caretaker to change his mind about committing suicide. But Will's mind is stronger than Louisa's emotions in the novel. At the end of the novel, Will changed Louisa's mind to live her life as she wishes. Because in the begging of the novel, Louisa was a middle-class girl who lost her first job in the cafe and followed by her father losing his job. So she search for a job in the job center and then finally she got the job as a caretaker. So she could share some financial support with her family.

Index Terms – Love, Accident, Caretaker, Suicide, Letter, Philosophical

Introduction

After facing sadness and suffering, human beings tend to be sensitive. An attitude may come as a result of a strong rebellion inside someone's emotions and feelings. That is described by the characteristics of not being sure, moody, sad, despair, hopelessness, and like being in very bad times. *The Sense of an Ending* is, a retired man in his sixties who reflects on his life and the choices he made in his youth. The plot endowment that Tony receives from the mother of his ex-girlfriend, Veronica. The endowment is a diary of Tony's school friend, Adrian, who committed suicide many years earlier. The diary leads Tony to question his memories of the past and the truth of his relationship with Veronica and Adrian. As Tony digs deeper into his past, he comes to realize that his memories are unreliable and that the truth of what happened is more complicated than he initially thought. *Me Before You* is about Louisa Clark, a young woman who takes a job as a caregiver for Will Traynor, a wealthy and successful businessman who becomes a quadriplegic after a motorcycle accident. As Louisa struggles to connect with Will and understand his struggles, she realizes that he has given up on life and is planning to travel to Switzerland to undergo assisted suicide. Louisa becomes determined to change Will's mind and show him that life is still worth living, leading to a complex and emotional journey for both characters.

Quality of Life

Various forces and tendencies contending in the world of ideas bear directly on the identity of each person. The protagonist in the novel *The Sense of an Ending* Tony Webster living a normal life as a retired arts administrator in his sixties with some old memories. At the same time in the novel Jojo Moyes, *Me Before You* protagonist Louisa Clark lives her boring life at twenty-six after losing her job. Louisa is an outspoken woman who likes to express her opinion very directly "My father calls me a 'character' because I tend to say the first thing that pops into my head" (Moyes 22). Apart from her personality, Louisa is a twenty-six year old girl who has good taste in clothes. She does not like to dress like any other woman in her age.

"My mother calls me 'individual' which is her polite way of not quite understanding the way I dress. But apart from a brief period in my teens, I never wanted to look like Treena or any other girls at school; I preferred boys' clothes till I was about fourteen, and now tend to please myself depending on what mood I am in on the day. There's no point me trying to look conventional" (Moyes 22-23).

Louisa is portrayed as a woman who loves to work. Since the age of twenty-one, she takes the responsibility to be the earner of her family. She works hard to keep the financial balance. In other words, it seems that she has no other interests or activities besides working. Her passion for working is proven "Everyone I knew hated Monday Mornings, but I never minded them. I liked arriving early at The Buttered Bun, firing up the huge tea urn in the corner, bringing in the crates of milk and bread from the backyard, and chatting to Frank as we prepared to open" (Moyes 10).

Despite her passion for working, Louisa is described as a woman who seems unambitious. She never wants to explore new things because she is afraid of someone else's reaction. She cuts herself from a lot of experiences since she dares not to take risks. If a person tries to suggest she try over new experiences she will decline. Things change after she meets Will Traynor, a quadriplegic guy. He has made Louisa understand that life is too precious to be wasted on. As a result, Louisa starts to focus on her personal life by improving her skills. Louisa gradually changes herself into a better person. She begins to have another interest and activity besides working. She will spend the spare time that she has to do a lot of things that are beneficial for her. We can see how much Louisa transforms herself:

“I set about decorating, painting for an hour a night after I came home from work, and at the end of the week even Dad had to admit I’d done a really good job. He stared for a bit at my cutting in, fingered the blinds that I had to put up myself and put a hand on my shoulder. This job has been the making of you, Lou” (Moyes 222).

Louisa's mother was encouraging Louisa who had just lost her job and encouraged Louisa to find a new job, in fact, Louisa as the breadwinner of the family had to provide for her family day by day. She got support from her parents to face her problem. Her love and belonging needs have been fulfilled by the whole family. Her parents, her grandfather, and her niece love her so much. But Tony Webster looks at his past life and Louisa Clark moving to her future with a new job as a caretaker for Will Traynor, who became paralyzed person after an accident.

While Tony Webster thinking about his past life from his school life. By the way, everyone in the world had some beautiful events in their life. Especially the lot persons will say their school life was a good Memorial Day in their life. But not for Tony:

“I’m not very interested in my schooldays, and don’t feel any nostalgia for them. But school is where it all began, so I need to return briefly to a few incidents that have grown into anecdotes, to some approximate memories that time has deformed into certainly. If I can’t be sure of the actual events any more, I can at least be true to the impressions those facts left. That’s the best I can manage”. (Barnes 4).

And he introduced one of his friends Adrian Finn and how he became his fourth friend in his school life. He is the one who creates unforgotten memory in his life after their school life.

“There were three of us, and he now made the fourth. We hadn’t expected to add to our tight number: cliques and pairings had happened long before, and we were already beginning to imagine our escape from school into life. His name was Adrian Finn, a tall, shy boy who initially kept his eyes down and his mind to himself. For the first day or two, we took little notice of him: at our school, there was no welcoming ceremony, let alone its presence and waited”. (Barnes 4).

But Louisa Clark's story is a little bit different from Tony Webster's. Her life moves from the present to the future, in her life she lost her job and searching for a new job to support her family because her father recently lost his job. So went to a job centre like every person does after they lose their job and meet a person namely Syed. He helps Louisa to get an interview with the Traynor family for a caretaker job for Will Traynor. He has the facticity of his life, as he grew up in a rich family and he is also kind of hard worker man, one of his facticity is where he lived in a luxurious and classy house. Will makes his own decision for his life; he is such a passionate and perfectionist man. He prefers to do many activities which take risks and does his job well even though he will do anything to get that, and his biggest freedom to choose his own life is suicide. In the beginning, her job as a caretaker is difficult for her because Will won’t like to have a caretaker for him. Because of that, she can’t make friends with Will. Tony hadn’t that trouble being friends with Adrian Finn.

Tony and his friends finished their school life and they are moving to their higher studies. They continue their bond through letters but not Adrian “The original three wrote less often and less enthusiastically to one another than we did to Adrian. We wanted his attention, his approval; we courted him, and told him our best stories first; we each thought we were – and deserved to be – closet to him.” (Barnes 19).

As well as Louisa also moves to the next level, but that level is gaining the trust of Will. Because she wasn’t appointed as his caretaker for Will’s physical needs rather than she is appointed by Camilla Traynor as Will’s psychological caretaker to return him to normal instead of thinking about his past days. Nathan told to Louisa “You’re not here for the physical stuff. What am I here for?” (Moyes 44).

In their college studies, Tony found a girlfriend for him namely Veronica Ford who read Spanish and liked poetry. In their loving period one weekend, Tony went to Veronica’s home for a stay and he is not treated well in her home western country is not exceptional for boys are bullied by their girlfriends' fathers. It was a common thing in the world for every boy bullied by their girlfriend’s father and girls were bullied by their boyfriend’s mother. On the other side, Louisa had a boyfriend namely Patrick who loves physical fitness even in the tough situation “Sixty miles on the bike, thirty miles on foot, and a nice long swim in sub-zero Nordic seas.” (Moyes 71).

On another day Veronica came up to the town on her own. So Tony introduced his school friends to her. But as like as every boyfriend, Tony also watch his friend and how they interact with her “At first I was watching to see how my friends reacted to Veronica, but soon became more interested in what she thought of them. She laughed at Colin’s jokes more easily than at mine, which annoyed me, and asked Alex how his father made his money.” (Barnes 31). They continued their love journey through their second year of college. Once Tony went to Veronica’s home for a weekend with her family, but Tony didn’t feel good with her father and her brother Jack “treating me as lower-class scum.” (Barnes 27). After that, they became so close, But Veronica doesn’t want to have full sex with Tony, though she finally does after they break up leading him to end things with her definitively, which deeply upset her. So break up for some misunderstanding between them. After that, Tony went to his final year and concentrate on his study rather than focusing on girls after his break up with Veronica. The days were gone and one day he had a letter from his old friend Adrian. In the letter, Adrian mentioned he ask permission from Tony for taking Veronica out with him. Suddenly Tony thinks Adrian avoid the future fight if I may know about the affair between them.

“Adrian said he was writing to ask my permission to go out with Veronica. Yes, why her, and why then; furthermore, why ask? Actually, to be true to my memory, as far as that’s ever possible (and I didn’t keep this letter either), what he said was that he and Veronica were already going out together, a state of affair that would doubtless come to my attention sooner or later; and so it seemed better that I heard about it from him.” (Barnes 41).

It makes Tony feel bad for both Adrian and Veronica because Tony loved her and he may think she end up with him for the reason she had an affair with Adrian. It’s not only for Tony so much of a person thinking always like if their boyfriend or girlfriend love their friend after their breakup. They probably think my friend has a secret affair with a loved one. And Will is also pushed into this situation after he meets an accident that made his whole body paralyzed. After he has his accident and leaves the quadriplegic, Will Traynor begins to lose his life spirits. He is always aloof and closes himself from others even his family. He feels like he lost the purpose of the life he always dreamed of before. He thinks that his paralysis becomes a bad thing that makes him unable to do more things he like before and makes him feel that his life does not have any means anymore. Two weeks later Louisa start work as a caretaker for Will Traynor. Louisa had a chance to meet Will’s girlfriend and his friend when she came to meet Will. But they came to inform about that they two are going to get married. Will expresses his desperation through various things. One of them was by trying to hurt himself. He tries to make himself like his life will be useless to live like before anymore, whether it is mentally or

physically. It is proved by scars on his arms and many side effects of the pain of his mental problem. That made Will sad “I thought – well, we thought – that it would only be right to let you know...but, well, here’s the thing. Rupert and I are getting married.” (Moyes 63).

After that, Will became very upset and through every photo with her on the floor. Will believes that his life has ended since he was paralyzed. He does not even want to do or hear all the things he had done before. Worse, he does not want to meet his friends even his ex-girlfriend, Alicia, who left him after seeing him paralyzed. His nurse, Nathan, explains that the most important that Louisa should do for Will was to encourage him and give his spirits. He feels sorry for Will who is becoming more and more depressed day by day. Louisa use the vacuum cleaner to clean the floor and take photos and try to fix that. But Will scolded her for fixing it. In that scene, Jojo Moyes shows how much Will's heart was hurt by his beloved girlfriend and his friend. It resembles Tony had upset in Adrian’s letter about an outing with Veronica. After that Louisa reach to get Will’s trust in her, and it gets stronger after Louisa takes him to hospital. One day Will became ill in the cold time and Louisa can’t he is in ill rather than she thought he is sleeping. Also, that day was very snowy at that place. So, public transportation has been completely stopped for the bad weather. So Nathan came after several hours later by walking all the way “Nathan shrugged off his coat. Had to walk all the way here. The buses have stopped running.” (Moyes 100). Before that, Louisa went to Will’s room to give him morning medicine and coffee. But Will asked for Nathan to adjust his bed, and Louisa replayed he didn’t arrive yet. So Will ask Louisa to adjust his bed, and then only she finds Will’s body temperature is high. She didn’t realize Will had a fever and thought his body temperature increased by his t-shirt. When Nathan arrived, she informed him about Will in ill condition. So Nathan arrived at Will’s room and find out he was in high fever and came back to Louisa to ask when Will’s body temperature had been raised “He’s burning up, he said. How long has he been like this” (Moyes 100).

Tony became a traveller after he complete his under graduation in Bristol and he meet a girl namely Annie another traveller like him. They became friends and after a couple of days, they became lovers. But she is an unreliable person in the relationship and she ends up with Tony in three months “I met a girl while I was out there: Annie, she was American, travelling round like me. We hooked up, as she put it, and spent three months together” (Barnes 46). She won’t feel bad about that as a person easily come and easily go and even Tony also didn’t bother about it after she went “Easy come, easy go, she said, and meant it. Later, looking back, I wondered if something in me wasn’t shocked by this very easiness” (Barnes 46).

While on the other side, Will is not happy with his present life because his paralyzed body stuck him in the room. Because Will Traynor was a person who experienced many adventurous things, he had ambitions in good ways before his accident. “I cannot do those sorts of holidays. I need to be doing something.” (Moyes 1). Doing something means that he is a man who never wastes his time not doing anything useful. He makes his life worth in his way. His adventurous life is portrayed by his experience in doing physical things. He used to do some extreme sports such as trekking up mountains and hanging over ravines. “There was a man bungee jumping from a cliff, his arms outstretched like a statue of Christ. There was a man who might have been Will in what looked like a jungle, and him again in a group of drunken friends.” (Moyes 46).

Will Traynor enjoyed his life and he had passion in all things he did before the accident. He always does something every day even he is busy with his job and business. He wants his life to be meaningful. “I worked out what would make me happy, and I worked out what I wanted to do, and I trained myself to do the job that would make those two things happen.” (Moyes 264). He was so excited when he thought about his life before the accident. He loved his life when he could do anything he wanted. He experienced many things in his life before his accident.

But now everything has been changed upside down. Will not be the only person in the world who get upset with their life after an incident that changes their entire life while comparing to their past. It’s a common thing among the human when they have a hard time then they put themselves into depression. Depression is a state of low mood and aversion to activity that can hurt one’s thoughts, behaviour, feelings, worldview, and physical well-being. Depressed people may feel sad, anxious, empty, hopeless, worried, helpless, worthless, guilty, irritable, hurt, or restless. They may lose interest in activities experience loss of appetite or overeating, have problems concentrating, remembering details, or making decisions, and may contemplate or make an attempt to commit suicide. Insomnia, excessive sleeping, fatigue, loss of energy, aches, pains, or digestive problems that are resistant to treatment may come to him. Will had no self-confidence in front of other people. He assumed that people underrate him because he could not do anything without someone’s help and because sitting in a wheelchair made him feel like a weak person. He had a good life before and people saw him as a man who deserved respect from others but after the accident that made him paralyzed, people saw him differently.

That’s why his mother Camilla appoint Louisa to make his life brighten and make him overcome his present mindset. Through his struggle with his life, he met a girl named Lou Clark. Lou is hired by Will's mother with the hope that Lou can bring joy and happiness to Will's life. And it happens. Will is finally a little cheerful. But at first, Will is so rude to her. Louisa also tries her best to change Will’s mind.

“You thought a little drive would be good for me? A breath of fresh air?”

‘I’m just trying to –’

“Miss Clark, my life is not going to be significantly improved by a drive around Stortfold's country lanes. He turned away.” (Moyes 50).

But not long after every day they meet, even though Will was so rude to Lou at first, without knowing it they end up falling in love with each other. Will started to open up by accepting Louisa's help. Will even let Louisa shave his beard and cut his long hair. They even went to watch music shows, watch horse races, and even went on vacation in Mauritius. But sadly, all those things could not change Will's decision to end his life. Will remained firm with his decision. “I can't do this because I can't...’ he swallowed. I can't be the man I want to be with you. And that means that this – he looked up into my face - this just becomes . . . another reminder of what I am not.” (Moyes 423).

Will felt that all the things after his accident were still not enough for him even though it changes better since Louisa came into his life, but it was not the life he wanted. Will loved her, but he didn't want to just look at her every day without doing something. He got that his life could be good. He got that with Lou around, perhaps his life could be very good. But it's nothing like the life he wanted. Not even close. He didn't want to try and give Lou a chance to make his life a good life.

“But it does define me, Clark. You don't know me, not really. You never saw me before this thing. I loved my life, Clark. Loved it. I loved my job, my travels, and the things I was. I loved being a physical person. I like riding my motorbike,

hurling myself off buildings. I liked crushing people in business deals. I liked having sex. Lots of sex. I led a *big life*. His voice had lifted now. I am not designed to exist in this thing – and yet for all intents and purposes, it is now the things that define me. It is the only thing that defines me.” (Moyes 426).

Life before the accident was everything for Will. That made him more pessimist because his heart was still in his old life. He could not cope with the fact that he could not do all of those things anymore. If only he could move on from his old life, he might be able to live happily with Lou. There were still many beautiful things they could do together, without thinking of Will's flaws. But Will kept his decision and didn't want to give Lou a chance.

“It's not a matter of giving you a chance. I've watched you these six months becoming a whole different person, someone who is only just beginning to see her possibilities. You have no idea how happy that has made me. I don't want you to be tied to me, to my hospital appointments, to the restrictions on my life. I don't want you to miss out on all the things someone else could give you. And selfishly, I don't want you to look at me one day and feel even the tiniest bit of regret or pity that –” (Moyes 426).

When Will went ill during the bad weather Camilla ask her to stay the night for that day to take care of Will. And Louisa stands aside from Will in his room to help him and they start to share some jokes Louisa asks about the scar on his wrist. Because it's not an ordinary scar to see either scar from an accident “I kept wondering about the marks on his wrists.” (Moyes 106).

Tony finally came home after his parents contact Embassy to reach him to inform him about his mother on her deathbed. When he reached his home, his mother welcomed him with a hug and ask him to bathe for dinner. After that, his mother handed him some letters which were arrived for him.

“She handed me the very few letters that had arrived in my absence.

‘You’d better open those two first.’

The top one contained a brief note from Alex. Dear Tony, it read Adrian died. He killed himself. I rang your mother, who says she doesn't know where you are, Alex.

‘Shit,’ I said, swearing for the first time in front of my parents.” (Barnes 47).

While the news of Adrian's death makes Tony shock and Tony's mother asks him if maybe he commit suicide because he was the cleverest person. “my mother asked, Do you think it was because he was too clever?” (Barnes 47).

Tony chases up two documents which were the legacy of Veronica's mother; he finds her letter but he cannot find the other one; so he calls the solicitor:

“The will describes it as a diary.’

‘A diary? Is it Mrs Ford's?’

‘No. Let me check the name.’ A pause. ‘Adrian Finn.’

Adrian! How had Mrs Ford ended up with his diary? Which was not a question for the solicitor. ‘He was a friend,’ was all I said. Then, ‘Presumably, it was attached to the letter you sent.’

‘I can't be sure of that.’

‘Have you seen it?’

‘No, I haven't.’ Her manner was properly cautious, rather than unhelpful.

‘Did Veronica Ford give any reason for withholding it?’

‘She said she wasn't ready to part with it yet.’

Right. “But it is mine?” (Barnes 67).

Since the document is missing, it is not possible to access the truth about its reliability of it. Both the solicitor and Tony have not seen it and it is not clear that there is Adrian's diary. Tony uses every means possible to have it and the reason behind this search is his determination. “I've no idea. It's just mine. I recognized at that moment another reason for my determination. The diary was evidence; it was – it might be – corroboration. It might disrupt the banal reiterations of memory. It might jump-start something – though I had no idea what” (Barnes 77).

Even though he looks for the diary, he also has hesitations about it: “Because part of me was wondering if, psychobabble apart, there might not be some truth in it” (Barnes 77). Since the diary is the construction of Adrian, the truth in it is questionable. It is a subjective creation of his life, so what was written may not be the reality.

After many emails to Veronica, finally, he gets only a piece of it “The ‘fragment’ turned out to be a photocopy of a fragment.” (Barnes 85). He cannot understand anything about it, for she does not send “the first page, or the last, or indicated” (Barnes 85). He defines this as “the photocopy – this version of a version” (Barnes 86). Also, it includes abstract ideas of Adrian about mathematics and relationships which are ambiguous for Tony also its end is unpredictable and the rest is unknown. Thus, this evidence just astonishes him by presenting that achieving the truth about the past is problematic. Nevertheless, he convinces her to meet him and he asks:

“Are you going to let me have Adrian's diary?

I can't, she replied, without looking at me.

Why not?

I burnt it.

First theft, then arson, I thought, with a spurt of anger. But I told myself to keep treating her like an insurance company. So, as neutrally as possible, I merely asked,

For what reason?

Her cheek twitched, but I couldn't tell if it was a smile or a wince.

People shouldn't read other people's diaries.” (Barnes 92).

Tony is again disappointed and he will never have a chance to access the evidence. However, she gives him another envelope, but this is “another photocopy” (Barnes 95). Thus all of the documents in the novel are the representations of the original ones and this provokes the unreliability of his narration. Therefore, this new evidence is his letter from the past, but he cannot remember it and he stresses:

“How often do we tell our own life story? How often do we adjust, embellish, and make sly cuts? And the longer life goes on, the fewer are those around to challenge our account, to remind us that our life is not our life, merely the story we have told about our life. Told to others, but – mainly - to ourselves.” (Barnes 95).

His memories about his own life are blurred through time and his presenting the unreliability of his narration. Hence he defines himself as “Average at life; average at truth; morally average” (Barnes 100). Then, he remembers a moment described on the first page through “chasing into the night with a scatter of intersecting torch beams.” (Barnes 119) however he realizes:

“At least, that’s how I remember it now. Though if you were to put me in a court of law, I doubt I’d stand up to cross-examination very well. ‘And yet you claim this memory was suppressed for forty years?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘And only surfaced just recently?’ ‘Yes.’ ‘Are you able to account for why it surfaced?’ ‘Not really.’ ‘Then let me put it to you, Mr Webster, that this supposed incident is an entire figment of your imagination, constructed to justify some romantic attachment which you appear to have been nurturing towards my client, a presumption which, the court should know, my client finds utterly repugnant.’ ‘Yes, perhaps. But – But what, Mr Webster?’ ‘But we don’t love many people in this life. One, two, three? And sometimes we don’t recognize the fact until it’s too late. Expect that it isn’t necessarily too late. Did you read that story about late-flowering love in an old people’s home in Barnstaple?’ ‘Oh please, Mr Webster, spare us your sentimental lucubrations. This is a court of law, which deals with fact. What exactly are the facts in the case?’” (Barnes 119-120).

Since the past is blurred, the events in the past are questionable except for death. When one of their friends committed suicide in high school, Adrian states a quotation from Camus “Suicide was the only true philosophical question” (Barnes 13) and he continues “The only true one. The fundamental one on which all others depend” (Barnes 14). Years later, at university he also committed suicide by putting question marks in his mind; what is certain about him is that he died. Additionally, when Tony and Veronica meet for the last time, they run into a group of disabled people who pay attention to Veronica. Then, she is frustrated and kicks him out of the car. Tony does not understand why she behaved like this and he decides to go to the same place again. On his third visit, he realizes that the forty-year-old disabled man looks after Adrian and he understands that he is Adrian’s and Veronica’s son. He writes an apology email to her, but the answer is surprising: “You still don’t get it. You never did, and you never will. So stop even trying” (Barnes 144). He begins to visit the place regularly and finally, the caretaker of the group comes to him and asks who Tony is by stating “Your presence upsets him” (Barnes 147). Tony replies that he is a friend of Adrian’s father and also he knows his mother Veronica. The caretaker fixes Tony’s sentences as “Mary isn’t his mother. Mary’s his sister. Adrian’s mother died about six months ago” (Barnes 148).

Moyes considers many answers to the question, what makes life worth living? One answer is money and status, as the well-to-do and high society Traynor family seems to have everything that the Clark family, stuck living pay check to pay check, desires “He says our heating bills are larger than the GDP of a small African country.” (Moyes 7). Yet though Will owns a castle and can pay for anything he wants, his wealth does not console him after his accident and it does not bring the Traynor family closer together, as Moyes argues that money cannot make people happy or be the only end goal of a fulfilling life. Another possible answer is an adventure, given the thrilling life that Will led before his accident and Will’s many attempts to force Louisa into having those types of adventures as well. Louisa learns that some amount of adventure is a satisfying addition to her otherwise ordinary life, but that the true meaning of life cannot be something that is so easily taken away by a loss of health or finances. The ordinary moments of life are just as, if not more, meaningful to Louisa.

Will is stuck in a depression that no amount of money or wheelchair-friendly adventures can shake, his love for Louisa and Louisa’s love for him is the only thing that gives Will true happiness in his final months. This love is also reflected in Will and Louisa’s families, as each of Will and Louisa’s family members finds ways to support and care for each other through the difficult situations of Will’s condition. Yet even love cannot be the only reason for life, as Will decides when he continues with his plan to end his life on his terms. Louisa also confronts the edges of romance and love as she has to accept and support Will’s own planned suicide even though it strains her relationship with her mother and means that her love story with Will has an end.

Another incident that reflects the conflict between Eros and Thanatos is the suicide of Robson. Robson, a student of Science sixth form, commits suicide after getting his girlfriend pregnant. His libido drives him to seek pleasure and it strengthens the instinct of Eros in him. As he satisfies his id, his superego comes into play. His sense of morality activates the death instinct and thus he commits suicide. In the case of Robson, “Thanatos wins again” (Barnes 13). His Thanatos has gained much prominence from his superego and this primal instinct has won the conflict. In other words, the sense of guilt has made him commit suicide.

Tony is keen to satisfy his id at all times. His relationship with Veronica is an indication of his tendency to satisfy his Eros. Meanwhile, the same relationship gives space for the expression of his Thanatos. His relationship with Veronica also becomes physical but he avoids her later. Thus, the conflict between Eros and Thanatos in the psyche of Tony is exhibited. Tony’s Eros drives him to love Veronica and his Thanatos pulls him apart to avoid and hate her. It is this conflict that leads to the separation of Tony and Veronica. Even after many years of his separation from Veronica, Tony is still attracted to her. He admits: “Another thing I realized: there was a mistake, or a statistical anomaly, in Margaret’s theory of clear-edged versus mysterious woman; or rather in the second part of it, about men being attracted to either one sort or the other. I’d been attracted to both Veronica and Margaret.” (Barnes 92).

Veronica appears as a mysterious woman to Tony. That is one of the reasons why he loves and hates her. He always looks at her as a manipulative woman who has wreaked havoc in his personal life. Veronica’s impression of his psyche is much deeper than that of Margaret. For Tony, Margaret is a simple woman with no air of mystery and that is what makes him marry her. Yet, theirs is not a successful marriage. Tony takes up a brief fling with Annie. It is purely a manifestation of his Eros and he never desires to develop it into a serious relationship. He neither strictly adheres to morality nor sticks himself to societal norms and hence there is little projection of his superego. Tony’s mind oscillates between Eros and Thanatos, that is, the instinct of love and death. Tony regards himself to be easy-going and thus he sustains his life. Eros or the life instinct is strong in Tony and hence he never winds up his life feeling guilty for his acts. This attitude distinguishes him from Adrian. Despite all his failing relationships, Tony is driven by his life instinct to endure his life. He is not completely prompted by his Thanatos and that is why he manages to survive through all his obstacles. His accumulation of the death instinct never reaches the critical point as in the case of Adrian. Tony’s life instinct drives him to survive and he even mentions:

“And that’s life, isn’t it? Some achievements and some disappointments. It’s been interesting to me, though I wouldn’t complain or be amazed if others found it less so. Maybe, in a way, Adrian knew what he was doing. Not that I would have missed my own life for anything, you understand. I survived. ‘He survived to tell the tale’ – that’s what people say, don’t they?” (Barnes 56).

Indeed, Tony channels his instincts into something useful and creative at least after his retirement. It psychologically represents the re-channelization of his libido, the psychic energy of Eros which was active in his youth. He says, "A while ago, I volunteered to run the library at the local hospital; I go round the wards delivering, collecting, recommending. It gets me out, and it's good to do something useful" (Barnes 55–56).

William destroys photographs, when Louisa tries to fix the photo frame he destroyed; he comes and says that he deliberately destroyed the photo frame arranged on the table because he didn't want to see it. He felt loved and left by his circle of friends at that time.

"Do you know what, Louisa? It would be nice – just for once – if someone paid attention to what I wanted. Me smashing those photographs was not an accident. It was not an attempt at radical interior design. It was because I don't want to look at them." (Moyes 73).

William seems to be attractive and distances himself from the environment, he feels that people like him who are no longer competent, let alone appear prestige, indicate that one's self-esteem is also influenced by physical conditions. He feels uncomfortable if he has to be in a crowd or front of the public regarding the process of individual acceptance of him because he feels different.

"We were sitting in the shelter, waiting for a sudden squall to stop so that we could walk around the rear gardens of the castle. Will didn't like going to the main area – too many people to gawp at him. But the vegetable gardens were one of its hidden treasures, visited by few. Its secluded orchards and fruit gardens were separated by honeyed pea-shingle paths that Will's chair could negotiate quite happily." (Moyes 250).

Furthermore, William decided to end the pain and his life that was opposite to the life before the accident. This matter happens to William:

"Sshhh. Just listen. You, of all people. Listen to what I'm saying. This... tonight ... is the most wonderful thing you could have done for me. What you have told me, what you have done in bringing me here ... knowing that, somehow, from that complete arse I was at the start of this, you managed to salvage something to love is astonishing to me. But - I felt his finger close to mine - I need it to end here. No more chairs. No more pneumonia. No more burning limbs. No more pain and tiredness and waking up every morning already wishing it was over. When we get back, I am still going to go to Switzerland. And if you do love me, Clark, as you say you do, the thing that would make me happier than anything is if you would come with me." (Moyes 427).

Though Tony has controlled his death instincts, his life is not an exalted one as he frequently mentions the discontentment in his life.

"And so, for the first time, I began to feel more general remorse – a feeling somewhere between self-pity and self-hatred – about my whole life. All of it. I had lost the friends of my youth. I had lost the love of my wife. I had abandoned the ambitions I had entertained. I had wanted life not to bother me too much, and had succeeded – and how pitiful that was." (Barnes 99-100).

Adrian is from a broken family and his mother has left his father who raises both Adrian and his sister. Yet the family circumstances do not appear to disturb psychological and mental stability of Adrian on the outset.

"His mother had walked out years before, leaving his dad to cope with Adrian and his sister. This was long before the term 'single-parent family' came into use; back then it was a broken home', and Adrian was the only person we knew who came from one. This ought to have given him a whole store tank of existential rage, but somehow it didn't; he said he loved his mother and respected his father." (Barnes 8-9).

Adrian comes in contact with Veronica and they fall in love with each other after Veronica's separation from Tony. When everyone assumes that he is happy with her, Tony receives news that Adrian committed suicide. Adrian is also much driven by his Eros and that makes him come into a sexual relationship with Sarah. His primal instinct leads him to get into such a relationship that hurts his principle of morality. The reason for Adrian's suicide is not explicitly presented in the novel. But it could be understood that he committed suicide as he felt guilty about his sexual encounter with a mother-like woman, Sarah, and impregnating her. Sarah gives birth to a mentally impaired son due to her conception at a late age. The fragment from Adrian's diary exhibits an equation that logically represents human relations and in it, Adrian remarks:

"To what extent might human relationships be expressed in a mathematical or logical formula? And b) If so, what signs might be placed between the integers? Plus and minus, self-evidently; sometimes multiplication, and yes, division. But these signs are limited. Thus an entirely failed relationship might be expressed in terms of both loss/minus and division/reduction, showing a total of zero; whereas an entirely successful one can be represented by both addition and multiplication." (Barnes 85).

On the other hand, Will was also thinking about Lou, how Lou lived her life if she stayed with Will, and what would happen to her life if Lou stayed by his side. He knew Lou's life would be useless if she continued to be with him. He could do nothing, but he knew Lou could still do a lot without him. He could no longer walk, but Lou could still walk even run to chase her dreams. Will didn't want just because of him, Lou gave up her dreams.

"You don't know that, Clark. You have no idea how this would play out. You have no idea how you're going to feel even six months from now. And I don't want to look at you every day, to see you naked, to watch you wandering around the annexe in your crazy dresses and not . . . not be able to do what I want with you. Oh, Clark, if you had any idea what I want to do with you right now. And I . . . I can't live with that knowledge. I can't. It's not who I am. I can't be the kind of man who just . . . accepts." (Moyes 427).

When we love someone, we want to do something for them, and so did Will. He wanted to do something for Lou, but he could not. He could not accept a life that could only be sitting, relying on someone else, and doing nothing. He could not accept the fact that he was paralyzed and his situation if he lived with Louisa and relied on her. "I need it to end here. No more chair. No more pneumonia. No more burning limbs. No more pain and tiredness and waking up every morning already wishing it was over." (Moyes 427). He wanted to be free from all of it. He gave up his life because he knew he would never be better, and if he stayed, it would be never-ending suffering. "Nothing was ever going to change my mind." (Moyes 428). We could understand, whoever or whatever it is would not be able to change Will's decision to end his life, whether his family or the woman he loved. He knew it was the only big thing that he could do in his life. He wanted a better life, but he didn't want to live in such a paralyzed condition. He felt that

there was nothing he could do with his life, so he decided to end his life through Dignities, a Swiss-based assisted suicide organization.

In attempting to understand the chain of events leading to Sarah Ford's inclusion of Tony in her will, Tony returns again and again to his school days, in particular to his history, philosophy, and literature classes. In the classroom, Tony and his friends tried to outsmart and intellectually one-up each other, eager to be as clever as possible while also maintaining an attitude of cool detachment. But literary and philosophical ideas do have concrete effects in the novel: they lead, one could argue, to Adrian's suicide, and in less dramatic ways they help characters like Tony, Colin, and Alex decide what kind of people they want to be by deciding which philosophers they feel affiliations with. The Sense of an Ending explores the resonance and power of philosophy in everyday life, even in decisions about whether to live or die, but also indicates the limits of applying general, abstract theories to the messiness and complexity of the individual, real-life relationships.

In school, Tony and his friends rebel against all political and social systems, preferring instead the hedonistic chaos part of their embrace of the culture of the 1960s. Adrian, however, remains preoccupied with finding a philosophical system that will not just explain the world, but also tell him how to live in it. He is drawn to abstractions as a way of giving meaning to his life. For instance, he refers to Eros and Thanatos, love and death, or the erotic drive and the death drive, as psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud would have it to explain the meaning of a poem assigned in class, but also, at another moment, to explain why the boys' classmate Robson has killed himself. The group of friends all tend to make such equivalences between literary analysis and analysis of real-life situations, but the novel cautions that Adrian's reduction of life experiences to a single abstract, learned expression is an upsetting, immature way of understanding other people.

If Tony is drawn to writers of dystopian fiction like George Orwell, Adrian embraces existentialists like Albert Camus, who considered suicide the only true philosophical question. Existentialism seems to equip him and his friends with theories and language to describe the excitement and despair that they feel. But when they use such language to interpret Robson's suicide, analyzing it coldly and matter-of-factly as indulgent and irresponsible rather than based on true philosophical logic, their lack of grief or concern for Robson, his family, or his girlfriend shows a startling lack of sympathetic imagination. Their conversations underscore the limitations of applying theory to life especially when philosophy is divorced from context or from the human beings that such theories seek to explain and describe.

If Tony and some of his friends come up short in their attempts to explain Robson's suicide through philosophy, Adrian flips the logic, using philosophy to justify his suicide. Adrian is shown to have grappled extensively with the idea that suicide might give meaning to a life that has no inherent meaning. He ultimately philosophizes his way to suicide, in an extreme example of the ways that philosophy can have very real power "Adrian redirected our interests. Camus said that suicide was the only true philosophical question" (Barnes 13) even if abstract theories and ideas might seem far removed from everyday life. Despite this, the novel portrays Adrian's suicide not as a sophisticated philosophical act, but as the desperate, tragic act of someone who's yearning for meaning something he can only find outside reality, in the abstractions of philosophy has led him to destroy his life.

Later in life, Tony's various theories about Adrian's character, his family, and his decision to kill himself are shown to be equally limited in their ability to do justice to the messy and complex realities of people's lives and relationships. As Tony gets back in touch with Veronica and begins to learn more about the circumstances leading to Adrian's suicide, he replaces one theory with another, deciding at one point, for instance, that Adrian must have gotten Veronica pregnant and killed himself as a result. Suddenly Adrian seems weak rather than brave, immature rather than sophisticated; but when Tony learns more and has to re-evaluate his theories once again, the limitation of the very attempt to reduce Adrian to abstractions becomes more evident.

By lingering over the abstract philosophical discussions of Tony's adolescence, the novel suggests that what one learns in the classroom can have unexpected and far-reaching consequences. While discussing vast questions like the meaning of life can seem strangely detached from the realities of everyday life, it's impossible to predict what people will do with such ideas or how they'll interpret the theories into action. The novel shows that abstractions can become concrete in powerful and chilling ways, and difficult philosophical questions can become a matter of life and death.

To value the meaning of life, Louisa is trying to accomplish the first way of discovering the meaning of life, which is by working or doing something in life. Based on the story, the writer notes there are two jobs that Louisa has ever done. The first is when she works as an employee at The Buttered Bun café. A positive attitude is reflected in Louisa's manner since the first day of her employment contract. She loves her job more than anything in her life. Louisa is doing her job with all her heart and soul. She likes the customers, the owner, and also the atmosphere of The Buttered Bun café. She also loves the sense of arriving early and preparing everything before the café is open. "The day had started like any other day. Everyone I knew hated Monday mornings, but I never minded them. I liked arriving early at The Buttered Bun, firing up the huge tea urn in the corner, bringing the crates of milk and bread from the backyard, and chatting to Frank as we prepared to open" (Moyes 10).

Working as a caretaker also makes Louisa understand the meaning of life. She reveals that spending time living in a wheelchair is not comfortable enough. Louisa has observed how much pain and health problems may threaten Will's life. She gets to know that life and death are inseparable. As shown by this statement, "There are normal hours, and then there are invalid hours, where time stalls and slips, where life-real life- seems to exist at one remove" (Moyes 105).

Conclusion

Quality of Life deals, with how every character lives their life with their desire and their fate. The sense of an ending protagonist Tony Webster lives a peaceful life in his sixties and when he thinks about his past life and every people he passes his life shows the quality of life in various people rather than every people. The first person in this novel is Robson who commits suicide at a young age by making his girlfriend pregnant and leaving a suicide. After that, Tony and his friend meet after they entered college. Tony introduced his girlfriend Veronica to his friend, where she meet Adrian one of Tony's philosophical friends. Later that Tony and Veronica break up. And Tony received a letter from Adrian seeking his permission to date Veronica. It makes him mad and Tony replies cruelly. After that, he received a letter from his friend Alex, that Adrian commit suicide in his room bathtub. After that, Tony realized Adrian commit suicide because he make Veronica pregnant just like Robson did in the past. And finally, he realized that the letter he wrote to Adrian was the reason for this. And how Adrian and Robson have similarities in their death. Me Before You the quality of life is described by the character Louisa and Will Traynor. Louisa is a jobless young girl who lives with her family

as a middle-class girl. She pushes to find a job for her family's financial help. And found a job as a caretaker for Will Traynor, the person who was paralyzed after had an accident and hate his present life. So Will decided to end up his life after six months from now and his mother try to change his mind. So she appoints Louisa as a caretaker for Will. As she expect Louisa try to earn his trust and they became close to him. After that, she knows Will going to end up his life in Switzerland. But Louisa tries to change his mind and Louisa also tries to leave this job, but her family's financial situation pushes her to continue her job. The final death of Will changed her life to live on her own.

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