

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the introduction of the research which consists of seven sections: background of the study, presentation of the research questions, the aim of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the brief description of the research methodology which describes the data collection and analysis, the clarification of the key terms, and the organization of the paper.

### 1.1 Background of Study

As human being, people tend to quest their meaning of life in the world. The life purpose can be revealed by various ways, for instance journey. Damon, Menon, and Bronk (2003) state that people experience journey from one place to other places to discover their sense of life. Harrison (2009) adds that people often rush from one place to the next in convincing themselves that life is a race, a destination, somewhere to reach, and somewhere to be. He also claims that every action that people take has certain purposes: to get somewhere, to accomplish something which is to reach that final destination and to conquer that final goal. In addition, journey is a mediator for questioning people's existence in the world (Desforges, 2000; McCabe, 2005; Palmer, 2005; as cited in Milde, 2010). They claim that journey becomes influential in the search of life purpose because journey is detached from everyday life into an extraordinary life. Thus, it can be inferred that journey is a dynamic process that affect people in the search of life purpose.

Life purpose can be affected by surrounding factors around the people during the journey. Milde (2010) explains that people are provided with opportunities to change the purpose of life based on their experiences through journey. The purpose in life is initiated by journey of one's self because journey is not only searching 'the other' but also on a quest of a sense of life (Wang, 1999). People's experiences are

associated with the individual quest for the search of life because experiences may affect a new thing and change ways of life in the individual. People individual's purpose is oriented by connecting with the broader world around them and journey may contribute to or benefit from one's life aim is thought to be a key component of life purpose (Damon, Menon, and Bronk, 2003). Burrow, Hill, Stanley, and Summer (2014) claim that the purpose of life contributes to well-being by providing a guiding framework for actualizing life goals within a larger social system. They portray that journey can give people a new experience by encountering with others in order to define the purpose of life. Therefore, all of the contributions in people's journey guide to discover people's life purpose.

According to Mc Knight and Kashdan, (2009) as cited in Burrow, Hill, Stanley, and Summer (2014), "the purpose in life is defined as a self-organizing life aim that organizes and stimulates goals, manages behaviors, and provides a sense of meaning and is recognized as an indicator of psychological well-being, physical health, and even longevity" (p. 242). Life purpose can lead people to achieve the meaning of living in the world. People have to have a life purpose and an idea of how they have become and where they are going (Taylor, 1989). Taylor claims that people quest their purpose of life in order to have a sense of life. Thus, it can be concluded that the search of life purpose can give positive impact to people.

Additionally, people are puzzled with their existence in the world, and their also relations with God and the universe (Davis, 1979; Dann, 2005). It impacts to the disconnection of people from their relationship with their roots. However, people are created in God's image for having a relationship with Him and being in that relationship will ultimately satisfy people's souls in achieves the life purpose Gamiet, 2008). Moreover, Hurt (2003) states that "the purpose of life is to develop a balanced and magnificent personality. It means that life has to be good, true, and beautiful as possibly can be (p. 2). In other words, he suggests that the balance life requires both the worldly aspect and the spiritual aspect. Hurt (2003) further claims that life purpose is not only thinking about obtaining wealth and power, achieving social

status, and fulfilling personal desires as well as ‘living life to its fullest’, but also the origin of life need to address the spiritual aspirations. He emphasizes that all the purpose and the meaning of life rely on God who has created humankind and the universe in the end. In addition, people’s relationships to other people, to cultural traditions, and to spiritual beings are directing to the purpose of life (Lewton, Bydone, Victoria, 2000). Life purpose is not about worldly aspirations related to people’s present and personal life; however, it is about the purpose of life itself and the relationship with God.

In relation to literature, the theme of life purpose has affected many writers’ literary works in these days. Il (1986) in his work *Life and Literature* states that

Since production is undertaken by man for the benefit of man, literature should naturally make a point of creating artistic images of people as the masters of production, and stress the settlement of the human problems which arise in the course of production.... literature can be settled correctly only through representative human images which can serve as examples for people in their lives and struggles. Therefore, we can say that the values and significance of any human question raised by a literary work is determined by the virtues of the typical man who plays the main role. (p. 9)

The theme of life purpose can be interesting because it can portray the people’s effort in struggle their lives to uncover the certain meaning of life. Therefore, this issue attracts many writers to produce literary works about life purpose.

Moreover, the issue of journey can also be found in literature. McCarthy (n.d.) delivers that the journey motive is one of the most widely used elements in American literature. The journey is a powerful symbol often used to represent a character’s adventure leading to an epiphany, or some sort of self-realization. He explains that the journey is used to represent a mental or physical challenge, often discouraging, that the characters in question must undertake as a part of their enlightenment integral to their character development. This idea influences literary works that carry about the issue of journey.

Meanwhile, *Aleph* has complexity of issue presented in the novel, however, only a few of researchers have analyzed this novel. The first study on Paulo Coelho’s

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**JOURNEY AND LIFE PUROPOSE IN ALEPH BY PAULO COELHO**

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*Aleph* is conducted by Mihaly (2012) who compares *Aleph* with Jorge Luis Borges' short story, *The Aleph*, which was first published in 1945. Mihaly analyzes the concept of mythical space that includes an inherent presence of mystery, the supernatural, hidden connotations and connections in both novels. Dennerlein (2009, p. 3) supports Mihaly's "Mythical Spaces-The *Aleph* as Seen by Borges and Coelho", that a comprehensive concept of space does not exist; 'space' in narratives can refer to the space consisting of the letters that make up the text, or to topographical conditions and experienced spaces. Mihaly (2012) emphasizes her research on the mystical initiation and also similar to the center of a labyrinth where are initiates would find the true face of themselves and the sacred universe.

Another research entitled "The Analysis of Plot Used in Paulo Coelho's Novel *Aleph*" by Siregar (2014), analyzes the plot that consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution portrayed in the novel. Moreover, Siregar (2014) also investigates plot that contributes the cause and effect relation of marriage in *Aleph*. It means that the plot contains sequential events but every event connected by causal relationship, one event cause or caused to the other events and Siregar uses this issues as her research. The findings of Siregar's study is plot in *Aleph* can give awareness for the bounty of love creates the fidelity is the price of unwavering in a marriage.

Based on these studies, it can be seen that most of them do not focus on the issue of journey in Paulo Coelho's *Aleph*. Thus, the present study aims to investigate how journey shape life purpose in the main character and the contribution of the other characters that is presented in the novel.

## 1.2 Research Questions

This research focus on the issue of journey and life purpose in Paulo Coelho's *Aleph* to answer this following question:

- What kinds of journey are presented in *Aleph* by Paulo Coelho?

- How do the journeys shape the main character's life purpose in *Aleph* by Paulo Coelho?

### **1.3 Aims of the Study**

The aims of this study are to analyze the kinds of journey which are presented in Paulo Coelho's *Aleph* and how the journeys shape the main character's life purpose in the selected novel.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

In the present study, the analysis of how journey influences the main character in Paulo Coelho's *Aleph* is limited around the main male character. Supporting characters and antagonists characters are presented briefly to support the analysis of the central character, not to be included as the focus of attention in the study.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Generally, the result of the study is expected to give contribution to critical analysis of prose and journey in literature, especially in the issue of journey and life purpose in literature. And also, the study gives the readers understanding about journey in shape life purpose in the novel and the readers know the story in *Aleph* novel.

### **1.6 Research Method**

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method since it focuses on the description and the interpretation of social phenomena and lead to how people or groups of people can have different ways of looking at reality (Hancock et al., 2007). This is also in line with Hancock et al. (2007) who argue that a descriptive qualitative

study refers to method with numerous aims, data collection techniques, and analysis techniques that produces a direct description of the character's experience. They further explain that descriptive qualitative concerns developing explanations and attempts to deepen understanding of how things came to be the way in social world.

It is supported by Patton (2002) who argues that qualitative studies use an analytic framework which is a network of linked concepts and classifications and the common sources are the materials that are considered significant, manageable as textual evidences to produce the result of the analysis. The goal of qualitative data analysis is to uncover emerging themes, patterns, concepts, insights, and understanding.

Thus, the descriptive qualitative method is suitable for this study because it helps to discover and explore journey in shape life purpose Paulo Coelho's *Aleph*.

### **1.6.1 Data Collection**

The data are collected after doing a close reading on *Aleph*, and they are in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs including the thoughts, verbal and physical actions of the main characters and the interactions with other characters. They are gathered by identifying the conflicts and/or issues on journey in the depiction of the male character in the novel, *Aleph*, by analyzing the conflicts occur between "I" and other characters, his behavior, and thought in the novel. Then, the data is framed by using journey in literature to answer the research questions.

### **1.6.2 Data Analysis**

The collected data on journey issues in *Aleph* are analyzed and interpreted by using journey issue in literature that proposed by Bodart, Barrineau, and Flamino (2011). Furthermore, this issue of journey helps to shape and investigate the issue of search of life, specifically life purpose in *Aleph*.

## 1.7 Organization of the Paper

This paper is constructed in this following organization:

1. Abstract

This section functions as summary of the paper presenting brief information about the content that is elaborated further in the next sections.

2. Introduction

This chapter deals with background of the study explaining what drives the writer to analyze the chosen topic, the purpose or personal intention of the writer in writing the study, the significance of the study describing what the contribution of the study in an individual or a society, and presentation of research questions.

3. Literature Review

This part of the study examines the bases of theories (theoretical framework) used in the study and also what other researchers have found in the earlier studies.

4. Methodology

This section presents the methods used in the study and also the details such as: who are involved, where the data are obtained, and how the data are collected.

5. Findings and Discussion

This chapter deals with the findings when the study or analysis is finished. The findings are transcribed, analyzed, and finally discussed to answer the research questions.

6. Conclusion

This section sums up all the information from the chapters and concludes an idea as the result of the analysis. In this section, suggestions for further research are also presented.