



INDIVIDUAL JOURNEY IN THE NOVELS OF PAULO COELHO – A STUDY OF VERONIKA DECIDES TO DIE, BRIDA AND THE WINNER STANDS ALONE

Sankalp Jurri^{1*}, Dr. Vasant Gawai²

Article History:

Received: 01/02/2023

Revised: 07/03/2023

Accepted: 10/04/2023

Abstract

There is a psychological approach to the interpretation of characters in *Veronika Decides to Die*, *Brida*, and *The Winner Stands Alone* as a means of revitalizing their enthusiasm for life in Paulo Coelho's Novels. The primary purpose is to look into Paulo Coelho's writings to see if he is an optimistic writer. In this regard, we use a subjective study in which they express their thoughts on Coelho's optimistic ideas using his writings as a guide. In this approach, we chose three novels: *Veronika Decides to Die*, *Brida*, and *The Winner Stands Alone*. In this research work, we employed all of these novels as primary sources. Coelho's attitude, thoughts, beliefs, and vision of his characters are represented by the us via his writing style. Based on existentialist philosophy, thus understands Coelho's optimism. The approach employed in this thesis is qualitative, and it involves doing a descriptive study of the acts and events that occurred during the process of resurrecting one's life's passion.

Keywords: Enthusiasm, Optimistic, Beliefs, Vision and Passion.

^{1*}Research Scholar, Department of English, MATS University, Raipur

²Assistant Professor, Department of English, MATS University, Raipur

***Corresponding Author:** Sankalp Jurri

*Research Scholar, Department of English, MATS University, Raipur

DOI: - 10.31838/ecb/2023.12.s1-B.535

Introduction

Veronika, the protagonist, is a complex and dynamic character. Round characters, according to Kennedy (1983), "present us with more facets" that is, their authors portray them in greater depth and richness. Such a spherical character might only appear to us as the other characters in the story do. If their perspectives on him differ, we will perceive him from multiple perspectives (page 46). For example, circular letters are complicated, with more than one side capable of thinking or reacting. It's as if you're talking to a real person. In the novel, Veronika appears to be a well-rounded character.

Brida is a wonderfully written story that explores the concept of soulmates and provides insight into the existence of soulmates, as well as the need for and methods of recognizing one's soulmate throughout one's life. It proves that love exists in the past, present, and future. It's an incredible story that describes how every one of us has a Soulmate whom we loved in previous lives and who is waiting to be reunited with us today. Soul meets and explores the spiritual side of

partnership with warmth and wisdom, finding the new key and true love.

Paulo Coelho's novel *The Winner Stands Alone* is a fascinating novel to contemplate pragmatically. Many insights about communication failures may be found in this work. This may be seen in the way Igor, the novel's primary character, communicates with other characters. Communication breakdown occurs in pragmatic situations when the speaker intentionally violates communication maxims of cooperative principles. As in the case below, when Igor, the primary character, is conversing with Olivia, another character.

Veronika Decides to Die

Paulo Coelho's work *Veronika Decides to Die* demonstrates that Veronika is a complex character. Both quotations demonstrate how quickly Veronika can change her opinion, exactly like a real person in real life. Her personality is diverse and nuanced. Furthermore, as the author of *Veronika Decides to Die*, Paulo Coelho

portrays Veronika as a dynamic figure. A dynamic character, according to Francis Bacon's article, occurs when a character's values, beliefs, or behaviors change as a result of his or her experiences (page 3). It indicates that throughout the story, the dynamic character develops and progresses to a greater level of understanding. Furthermore, as the novel progresses, Veronika demonstrates several types of change - in attitude, purpose, and action. Veronika is a developing character who, as a result of her experiences, transforms and matures to a new understanding of her life. The author of the novel *Veronika Decides to Die*, Paulo Coelho, utilizes a direct and indirect manner to show Veronika's characteristics.

The aforementioned reasons summarise Veronika's portrayal in the literature. The next section of the analysis divides Veronika's response to her suicide into five components. The first point concerns Veronika's suicide attempt that failed. Veronika was rescued and taken to the Villette as a result of her failure.

"I'm joking, it's not really hell" the voice went on. "It's worse than hell, not that I've ever actually been there. You're in Villette" (Coelho, 1998, page 11)

Despite the discomfort and suffocating sensation, Veronika immediately comprehended what had happened. She had attempted suicide, and someone had arrived just in time to save her. Someone delivering something she had forgotten she had ordered may have been one of the nuns, a friend who had dropped by unannounced. She had made it to Villette, even though she had survived.

In the Villette, she is forced to face the fact that her heart has been irrevocably damaged and that she only has five or a week left to live. This explanation led to the second point, which was named "waiting to die." Veronika's life expectancy is estimated to be between five and one weeks, according to a doctor. Her heart has been damaged, according to the doctor. It's because she drank four packs of sleeping medications before they had an irreversible effect on her heart. Her heart can't be healed with medicine.

Brida

Brida, Coelho's other novel, comes to mind. It's also an inspiring and upbeat work in which Coelho expresses his vision, which makes him an upbeat writer. So, let's get started on analyzing the novel's text. "The night is merely a part of the day," he would add (1990, p. 16).

This sentence is derived from Paulo Coelho's novel *Brida*, in which he states that you should

not be concerned about your life's difficulties and problems because they will not continue forever. These issues are analogous to darkness, in that they are a portion of the day, just as difficulties are a part of our lives rather than the entire. In this paragraph, Coelho expresses his optimistic worldview once more. Brida's father addressed her by saying, "Nothing is ever fully wrong in the world. Every day, even a stopped clock is correct" (1990, p. 77).

These sentences from Brida's text demonstrated Coelho's expansive definition of positivism. Coelho is trying to convey to his readers that they should not look for negativity in everything. There is no such thing as a useless or meaningless item in our universe. So, how we see or interpret events in our lives is entirely up to us. This is a matter of our thoughts, and our thoughts can transform well into bad and vice versa. For thousands of years, people have believed in the concept of soulmates. 'Soulmate' is defined by the dictionary as two people who are compatible in disposition, point of view, or sensibility; someone with whom you have a strong bond. This definition covers the essential characteristics of Soulmates, although the Soulmate hypothesis is far more complex. A Soulmate, according to legend, is a person with whom one has a strong bond. Similarity, love, romance, friendship, comfort, intimacy, sexuality, sexual activity, spirituality, compatibility, and trust are all examples of this. The term 'soulmates' refers to two people who have been predestined to be together.

Another concept is presented by the 'Old Testament' or the Judio-Christian Soulmate theory. According to this view, God creates an androgynous creator that contains both sexes (in his image) and contains the essence of spirit. As a result, God chooses to give this spirit a living soul, and out of his rib, he produces Adam and subsequently his female 'half' Eve. According to the New Testament, mankind was once entire but was separated to form their partner. Jesus reminds the Pharisees that they were created by God: "male and female... For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and devote himself to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh... 'So they are no longer two, but one flesh' (Mathew 19:4-6).

Brida, the work under discussion by Paulo Coelho, has one of the most instructive concepts of the word Soulmates. Through Brida's journey, the narrative analyses and offers the concept of Soulmate. *Brida* is a remarkable and profitable novel based on the true narrative of a lovely Irish

girl named "Brida" who has the "Gift" – the ability to see into the future (Something that is necessary to pursue magic). She encounters the Magus at the age of twenty-one and asks him to teach her magic: "I want to learn about magic," she says (12). When the Magus stares at her, the Soulmate theme kicks in: 'I must be twice her age,' he thinks. Despite this, he knew he had found his Soulmate" (12). Brida was the Magus' Soulmate, and he needed her as much as she needed him. "She was, after all, his Soulmate, even if she didn't realize it, even if she was still very young and attracted by the things and people of this world," says the narrator (18). The Magus delivers her the first lesson of the Tradition of Sun, the 'Tradition of Sun.' Brida understands something else as she learns the first lesson of the Tradition: "I have to be my Teacher, and that isn't what I was anticipating!" (26). 'There's one more thing,' she exclaimed as she walked out of the trees, her voice loud and joyful. You're a fascinating individual" (26).

The Winner Stands Alone

The Winner Stands Alone is a story about the Cannes Film Festival, a gathering of ultra-elite, individuals who have achieved success in the worlds of fashion and film. In this tale, certain female characters have reached the pinnacle of their achievement and are afraid of losing their coveted position. Money, power, and fame are all on the line, so they're willing to go to any length to get what they want. In this novel, some of the female characters are attempting to realize their aspirations of becoming actresses and models. Gabriella is the first main character. Gabriella is an American actress who aspires to star in a major motion picture or film. Jasmine is the second primary character (Christina). Jasmine is a woman in this novel who aspires to be a professional model.

"She was born to win and to shine, of that she has no doubt. And when I get what I always wanted, I know I'll have to ask myself: do they love and admire me because I'm me or because I'm famous?" (Coelho, p.26)

The data above depicts a woman who believes she is entitled to her desires. Women seek a better economic level, and the results of their work might be noticed by others, therefore data like Equality in Economics is important. The phrase Gabriela "to win and shine" exemplifies this. This data's female value describes a woman's attempt to work in the public domain, to become an actor, and to realize her dream of being an actress. Women have the right to the same possibilities to

work in the public realm as men have because working in the public sphere can be extremely beneficial to their lives.

The goal of this research is to use a feminist method to better comprehend the feminist values depicted in the novel. This research is expected to aid readers in comprehending the material and information in a literary work, particularly in comprehending the feminist value that is portrayed to achieve success. In this study, we look at the feminist values depicted in Paulo Coelho's novel *The Winner Stands Alone*, in which women have had to work hard to obtain success. The notion of Mary Wollstonecraft and some other specialists concerning Liberal feminism ideas was applied in this study.

Conclusion

In all three novels, Coelho weaves a tapestry of individual journeys that highlight the complexities of the human experience. From the quest for self-discovery to the exploration of spirituality and the pitfalls of unchecked desires, these journeys underscore the importance of introspection, resilience, and embracing one's path. Coelho's characters serve as mirrors through which readers can reflect on their own lives, encouraging them to embark on their quests for meaning, fulfillment, and authenticity. As readers accompany these characters through their trials and triumphs, they are reminded that the journey itself is a transformative process, filled with valuable lessons that can shape and illuminate their own lives.

This section concludes that, based on the discussion and analysis of Paulo Coelho's selected novels, it is demonstrated that Paulo Coelho's views on human beings in this world are hopeful. From the first sentence to the last, he sends an upbeat message to his readers in all of his writings. Every character in his many works exudes a sense of optimism. They go through numerous difficulties and tribulations, but they never, ever give up. This is exactly what Paulo Coelho wants to convey to his readers: that they should always look for the good amid the terrible. Based on the social cognitive principles of reciprocal determinism and treatment, this study revealed that the main character's settings contribute to the character's drive to live.

Bibliography

1. Zolmedal. (2019). Paulo Coelho Biography. <https://www.biography.com/writer/paulo-coelho>

2. Coelho, P. (1988). *Veronika Decides to Die*. Brazil: ISBN. 10: 8172235437.
3. Coelho, P. *Brida*, UK: Harper Collins, 2008. Print.
4. Coelho, P. (2008). *The Winner Stands Alone*. New York: HarperCollins.
5. David, Esther. (2018). *Bombay Brides*. New York: Harper Collins
6. McIntosh, Mary. (1991). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and Subversion of Identity*.
7. Muslimin, A. I. (2014). *Flouting maxims and the implication to a major character in Paulo Coelho's The Winner Stands Alone*. *Journal on English as a Foreign Language (JEFL)*, 4(2), 63-72.