

**THE WILL TO MEANING OF THE MAIN CHARACTER  
IN *THE STARS SHINE DOWN* NOVEL BY SIDNEY SHELDON**

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The purpose of this thesis wants to analyze the will to meaning and the meaning of life of Lara Cameron in *The Stars Shine Down* novel by Sidney Sheldon. The analysis uses intrinsic and existential psychology method, that is Logotherapy. Basic concepts of Logotherapy that are used in this analysis are the will to meaning, freedom, responsibility, spirituality, and meaning of life. In Logotherapy by Victor Frankl, there are three sources of meaning of life. In intrinsic method, will be analyzed about theme, plot, character and setting that are supports the analysis of the meaning of life of Lara Cameron. The result of this study is that Lara's life shows that every moment in life has a meaning of life, and showing how human finds the meaning of life. In every condition, people always look for their meaning of life to live their life. Logotherapy helps us to understand about the meaning of life deeper.

Keywords: *Will to Meaning, Meaning of Life, Logotherapy, Creative Value, Experiential Value. Attitudinal Value*

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1. Introduction

The novel *The Stars Shine Down* by Sidney Sheldon tells about the struggle of a beautiful woman to find the meaning of life. Her life starts by the suffering and emptiness without love. Her awful life is created her passion to get a better life. This novel is showing how human desire to find the meaning of life in each condition. The main character in this novel is a figure of woman who is always trying to find her meaning of life in every condition, either in happy condition or in awful condition. The story of this novel is very inspiring that just touch the writer's heart, motivate the writer to rearrange and appreciate the writer's life, attracted by the life experience of the main character in the novel, the writer would like to review this novel by the research and the title is "The Will to Meaning of the Main Character in *The Stars Shine Down* Novel by Sidney Sheldon".

The writer wants to analyze the novel by intrinsic and extrinsic elements. For the intrinsic elements such as theme, plot, characters and settings and the extrinsic elements of will to meaning of the main character, what are the meanings of the main character's life and how does she get her meaning of life. The writer uses library research to support the analysis.

## 2. Theoretical framework

### 2.1 Intrinsic elements

Intrinsic elements are the elements that build up in the literary works of literature itself. Intrinsic theories that will be used to analyze the novel are theme, plot, characters and settings.

Theme as cited in *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* is defined as: "The central idea or meaning of a story. It provides a unifying point around which the plot, characters, setting, point of view, symbols and other elements of a story are organized" (Meyer, 1990:196-197). Theme may be tells what the story is about.

The writer also wants to analyze the plot. Plot is the author's arrangement of incident in a story. It is the organizing principle tht controls the order of events. Events can be presented in a variety of orders. A chronological arrangement begins with what happens first, then second, and so on, until the last incident is related. Some stories begin at the end and then lead up to why or how events worked out as they did (Meyer, 1990:38). There are five stages of plot, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

The other intrinsic elements is character is one of the basic important elements of literature work, specifically in novels, dramas and short stories. It is an important element that builds the story because without them, the story cannot make up. Potter defines characters as "the basic element in much imaginative literature and therefore they merit the considerable paid to them" (1980:443).

The last intrinsic element that will analyze by the writer is the setting. The setting of story is the background and atmosphere of the story besides the obvious where it takes place include the location, the background, and the regional aspect, it can designate a particular time, and historical era, a political situation.

## 2.2 Extrinsic elements

Extrinsic theories that will be used to analyze the novel are, the will to meaning, Logotherapy, and the meaning of life. The will to meaning, or the desire to understand the purpose of one's own life, is the basic human motivation in the Franklian system. Viktor Frankl states that our will to meaning may be frustrated, because individuals try to get their needs met through power or pleasure. Frankl also taught that we are pulled, not driven, by the will to meaning. That means that we have a choice. When the will to meaning is repressed, self-destructive behaviour follows. The will to meaning has to be nurtured by our decisions. This meaning is unique and specific in that it must and can be fulfilled by him alone; only then does it achieve a significance which will satisfy his own will to meaning (Frankl, 1984: 44).

This final paper also wants to analyze the main character by logotherapy theory by Victor Frankl. Logotherapy is Victor Frankl's theory. Logos is a Greek word which denotes "meaning." Logotherapy, or, as it has been called by some authors, focuses on the meaning of human existence as well as on man's search for such a meaning. According to logotherapy, this striving to find a meaning in one's life is the primary motivational force in man. Logotherapy focuses rather on the future. Existence is a way of being, characteristic to human beings, which is not a factual being, but a facultative way of being. It is not a unique and never changing way of being, as neurotic people tend to misinterpret it, but the possibility to always change oneself (Frankl, 1984: 104). According to Frankl, three factors characterize human existence: spirituality, freedom, and responsibility. It means, humans have the freedom to do the best thing for him, accept full responsibility for what you will do and decided, and humans have the resources above a sublime spiritual awareness sense.

Human beings have the basic freedom to find meaning in life. In each problem that one faces there is a measure of freedom to choose the most meaningful response to the situation at hand. Choices are present in every situation. We only have to be aware of these choices and weigh them according to their meaning for our lives. The freedom to choose one's reaction to the living conditions. Freedom for Frankl meant taking personal responsibility for the results of one's actions. Real freedom exists only

when one is aware of the choices and the options, when one willingly accepts the responsibility for the choices made and for their results (Frankl, 1955: 85).

According to Guttman, the way of responsibility, the way of our intention to accept full responsibility for our decisions. We are always responsible for the choices we make, for good or bad, and are not supposed to hide from this responsibility by blaming others for our failures. Responsibility is the ability to respond to the demands of life in a given moment (2008: 61).

The spiritual dimension is the very core of our humanness, the essence of humanity. The spiritual dimension is the core or essence of the human being, and it cannot become ill, it can only be blocked by psychological or spiritual difficulties, and individuals can thus face adversity whilst still maintaining human dignity, and it is in fact a challenge to be faced with such difficulties (Frankl, 1992).

This final paper also wants to analyze the meaning of the main character's life. The meaning of life differs from man to man, from day to day and from hour to hour. What matters, therefore, is not the meaning of life in general but rather the specific meaning of a person's life at a given moment. Everyone has his own specific vocation or mission in life to carry out a concrete assignment which demands fulfillment. Therein he cannot be replaced, nor can his life be repeated. Thus, everyone's task is as unique as is his specific opportunity to implement it. As each situation in life represents a challenge to man and presents a problem for him to solve, the question of the meaning of life may actually be reversed (Frankl, 1984: 113). There are three kinds of the meaning of life, experiential value, attitudinal value and creative value.

### 3. Discussion

In this Chapter, the writer would like to describe the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic aspect in *The Stars Shine Down* novel using the theory which is written in the theoretical framework.

#### 3.1 Intrinsic elements

##### 3.1.1 Theme

*The Stars Shine Down* novel tells about the adventure of a woman named Lara Cameron who is struggling to achieve her goal of being a real estate developer.

Several problems come in the process of her struggle to get her goal in life, but she still can solve the problems and becomes a famous real estate developer, even she gets a nick name as “The Iron butterfly”. The theme or the main idea of this whole story or this novel is the struggle of Lara Cameron to get a better life.

### 3.1.2 Plot

#### a. Exposition

The exposition or the presentation of this novel presents Lara Cameron as the main character and the way the story goes at first.

"Your father must have been very proud of you."  
There was that warm smile again. "He was. He named me Lara. It's an old Scottish name that comes from the Latin (Sidney, 192: 24).

The story when Lara is in the boarding house helping her father is the exposition of the whole plot. The story is followed by the suffer filling Lara's childhood made by her father.

When Lara was five years old, she overheard her father say to one of the boarders, "The wrong child died, ye ken. My son is the one who should hae lived." That night Lara cried herself to sleep. She loved her father so much (Sidney, 1992: 34).

The quotation shows the whole first Lara's childhood experiences in Glace Bay when she lives with her father, an awful childhood. This introduces Lara as the main character and introduces the story as well.

#### b. Rising Action

The conflict that is built to raise the tension of the story is man vs man conflict between Lara Cameron and other characters. There are two main conflicts of man vs man in the story, first is the conflict between Lara and McAllister and the second is the conflict between Lara and Paul Martin.

First, the conflict between Lara and McAllister. McAllister asks to have sex with Lara if she wants to get the loan and buy his land, then Lara agrees with the agreement but after that, McAllister sabotages Lara's first building development.

Second, the conflict between Lara and Paul Martin. This conflict is motivated by Paul's revenge to Lara and her husband Philip Adler, because Paul falls in love with Lara but Lara leaves him for Philip Adler. These conflicts are mental conflicts that brings Lara to get better life, because it motivates Lara to rise.

#### c. Climax

The climax of this novel are when Paul Martin sabotages the development process of Cameron Tower, Lara has a problem with the tax of her Casino and when Lara's husband leaves her and Lara becomes the suspect of her husband's accident.

Howard Keller walked in. His face looked white and drawn. "I just got off the phone. We lost Cameron Towers, Lara. Both Southern Insurance and Mutual Overseas Investment are pulling out because we can't meet our completion date. There's no way we can handle our mortgage payments. We almost made it, didn't we? The biggest skyscraper in the world. I'm... I'm sorry. I know how much it meant to you (Sidney, 1992: 485).

#### d. Falling Action

The falling action that follows the climax is when Paul Martin stops to punish Lara.

"I can never forgive you. You made a fool of me. But you were the best thing that ever happened to me. I guess I owe you something for that. I didn't tell them anything in there, Lara." Her eyes filled with tears.

"Oh, Paul. I don't know how to..."

"Call it my birthday present to you. Happy birthday, baby." (Sidney, 1992;494).

Another falling action comes when Phillip Adler decides to come back to Lara, because he still loves her.

"When you speak to her, tell her I'll be waiting for her." (Sidney, 1992;490).

The other falling action which follows the conflict is when Howard Keller admits as a suspect of Adler's accident to cover Lara, while behind all this accident is Paul Martin who is jealous with Phillip Adler.

M: You paid Jesse Shaw \$50,000 to attack Philip Adler?

K: Yes.

M: Why?

K: He was making her miserable. She begged him to stay home with her, but he kept leaving her (Sidney, 1992: 478-488).

#### e. Resolution

The resolution of the novel is when everything gets better. Cameron Tower survives and Lara's happy life comes back, this story ends with the best birthday party of Lara Cameron.

### 3.1.3 Characters

The types of character in *The Stars Shine Down* are divided into two types : round and flat character. Round characters tend to have changes thus they are also usually called as the developing characters, while flat characters are called as static characters since there is no change in them. In *The Stars Shine Down*, the characters that can be categorized as round and dynamic are Lara Cameron as protagonist character and Paul Martin as an antagonist character. For the flat character, character included in this category are mostly the minor character, Howard Keller

### 3.1.4 Settings

Generally, the setting of time of this novel happens between 1952 and 1992. Setting of place in this novel is very important, because this novel tells about the struggle of Lara to get her goal in life and in that process Lara starts her career in the small city and continues her career to the big metropolis city. Setting place of this novel makes things happen in the story, it builds the whole story. The settings of place take place in Glace Bay, Chicago and New York. The setting of social also has role in the Lara's struggle to becomes real estate developer. Lara's social class improvements during her life. from lower class when she lives in Glace Bay, changes to middle class when she lives in Chicago and the last is when she lives in New York, she is in upper class.

## 3.2 Extrinsic elements

### 3.2.1 Lara's will to meaning

Lara's past experiences give a strength to her to change her life to become a real estate developer. Lara feels that she has done everything in order to become a real estate developer that her goal in her life so she feels that she deserve to get it. This Lara's desire is a thing that pushed her to do a various of activities in order to achieve the goal of her life. By working she feels that her life is meaningful and worthwhile. Suffering by her father in her awful life, living with a father who hated her, be poor, be a person who does not have anything , be a person who gives her virginity to a stranger, all of them motivate Lara to get better life. They are the basic of Lara's desire to get better life to become a real estate developer.

### 3.2.2 Lara's Therapy

#### 3.2.2.1 Freedom

In her life, Lara has a lot of freedom. Lara's freedom is a freedom to determine her attitude for all conditions, either on societies' environment or Lara's condition herself. Lara has a freedom to make decisions, make friends, and make love. In friendship Lara is free to choose her friend. There is no one who block her friendship between Lara and her friends. During her life, Lara has freedom to determine her life. Lara's freedom is a freedom to determine her attitude for all actions in her life. Lara chooses to free from Glace Bay and free to Chicago. This decision she decides to change her life to become the real estate developer. After that she chooses to free from Chicago and free to New York, to continues her career to become a successful real estate developer.

#### 3.2.2.2 Responsibility

As a human that has freedom, Lara is also a female figure who is filled by responsibility. Lara's step in her life is always accompanied by huge responsibility. Lara's sense of responsibility is reflected by completing all of her work well. When Lara holds a job, she certainly works with full of intention and get it done before the deadline, it reflects her responsible attitude towards her choice.



Lara's life shows that she has a great responsibility, and she makes it well. She is always responsible on everything that she chooses. Lara has a great sense of responsibility, it is shown when she works and takes care of her father, that is prove that Lara is an existent human.

### 3.2.2.3 Spirituality

Spirituality value that Lara has in this novel is reflected by her kindness, her humanity to her father who is already dead. Although in her childhood, Lara does not feel the happiness but she feels suffer of the bad treatment from her father, Lara still wants to give love and attention to her father by asking Howard Keller to buy a palace in Glace Bay and displace her father's grave in the palace. This Lara's attitude shows that Lara has a kindness and still has a high sense of humanity to her father even though her father is dead, and during her father life he never gives any love to Lara. This is reflected that Lara has one of the characteristics of human existence.

Lara Cameron, even though she should face her awful life in the childhood, she still has a kind heart and a great attention for people around her even after she succeeds. Lara is a young female figure who has a great attention for things in her life. This is show when a woman worker in Lara's office, Kathy as Lara's secretary has a lump, but Kathy said that she has not seen a doctor and Kathy admits that her parents and her sister are dead by cancer, she scared heard that she has too so she does not go to doctor. In a second Lara take an action, she calls Doctor and asks him to examined Kathy's condition.

### 3.2.3 Lara's meaning of life

Lara's meaning of life divided into three main discussion, they are Lara's experiential value, Lara's attitude value and Lara's creative value.

#### 3.2.3.1 Lara's experiential value

Lara's life is colored by events, happy, sad and even awful events, but Lara still has her experiential values in this life. The first meaning of life that she feels in her life is experiential value. Lara has experiential value in her step of life.

First step of her life is in Glace Bay, and next in Chicago and the last is the biggest city New York. She gets her experiential values when she runs her life in these cities, Glace Bay, Chicago and New York.

Lara's first meaning of life in the awful condition in Glace Bay is love. Lara's awful life is reflected by bad treatment of her father to her. James's acts are not reflected that he is a good father, he just spills out his hatred to Lara, actually James is the only family who Lara has. Her Mother dies when she gives birth to Lara. Lara does not have any love from her parents, but she gets another love from the people around her. Lara gets a great love from boarder who moved in the boarding house when Lara was 5 years old, named Mungo McSween.

That year a new boarder moved in. His name was Mungo McSween, and he was a huge bear of a man. He felt an instant affection for the little girl (Sheldon, 1992: 34).

A great love from McSween brings Lara to the bright light, McSween offers Lara to go to school, and he loves Lara on the first sight. At first James refuses that offer, but McSween insists, and finally James agrees. Lara finishes her last education on the high school. McSween is one of the most influential person on Lara's childhood, when her father doesn't give any affection for her, even her father always despises his daughter but, on the contrary McSween come as an angel who gives everything that Lara's needs, warmth and affection. When James says harsly to Lara, McSween come and gives the spirit for her. McSween is the most special person who give a lot of love to Lara in her awful life.

In life, human always needs love and attention from other people. Lara's experiential values does not stop in Glace Bay. When she lives in Chicago she also gets her experiential value. To make Lara's life more meaningful, she needs love and attention from people around her. When Lara lives in Chicago, she gets a sense of love after Howard Keller's presence in her life. Howard is always on her side, to help Lara in everything that she does. Even though, Howard's love to Lara is a real love between two people of different sexes, Lara is also loves Howard, but her love is just a love as a best friend. Lara gets love, attention and also assistance from Howard that makes her life more perfect. By Howard's love, Lara feels that her life is more meaningful.

Lara's life in New York is better than when she lives in Glace Bay but in this city Lara has to solve some of problems when she wants to get her goals, but in this situation Lara still has her experiential value that gives a meaning to her life. Lara's relationship with Philip Adler (her husband), Howard Keller (her best friend), and the people in her life brings Lara into an individuals figure who can be happy with that meaning of life. The meaning of Lara's life in experiential value by the form of love makes Lara become a lovely and warm person. The meaning of life that Lara gets in New York, completes her existence as a human being existence. Lara is a figure human who is always runs her life well even in the awful condition. When she lives her life, she gets an experiential value that is reflected by love. Lara gets love from everyone around her. She feels that her life is more meaningful when she gets love by people who loved her.

#### 3.2.3.2 Lara's attitudinal value

Life is not always beautiful and fun, such as Lara's life story which is filled by twists and turns of life. Life that Lara has, does not always run smoothly, many challenges and obstacles that she faces makes her life to be more meaningful. In every conditions of her life, pleasant or miserable, Lara always has the meaning of life, even when she has to face the problems that she never imagines, she still has a meaning of life in the form of attitude value. When Lara faces the big problems in Glace Bay and New York, Lara still has meaning of life that makes her life is more meaningful.

Lara's life in Glace Bay is the most awful moments of her life. The awful life brings her to become a better person, patient and calm. Although her father's hated is so huge to her, Lara keeps being patient, calm and loving her father well even though in the other side Lara is too suffered by the situation but she still runs her life well. A great abhorrence and careless of her father accompanies Lara in her childhood.

When Lara was five years old, she overheard her father say to one of the boarders, "The wrong child died, ye ken. My son is the one who should have lived." That night Lara cried herself to sleep. She loved her father so much. (Sheldon, 1992: 34).

In awful condition, Lara is always calm and patient. Even in the most awful condition, Lara is always be a patient woman. At that moment Lara does not change the situation but she changes her attitude. When her careless father is sick and lying helpless in the bed, Lara carefully takes care her father well, even her father's attitude is bad. Lara's attitude which is still calm and patient in face her fate when her father does not love her is a concrete thing of attitudinal value in logotherapy.

The meaning of life that Lara feels in New York is also attitudinal value. This meaning show when Lara be accused as a suspect of Alder's accident. Lara stays patient and calm in the face of accusations that is addressed for her. She can receive all the suffering in life by her patience and fortitude. Lara still has a good attitude runs her life well in the middle of life's trials. It is called with the value attitude towards the fate that cannot be changed. Lara's perspective on her life makes Lara has a meaning of life in the form of attitudinal value. Lara's attitude that still survives in the suffering is an important meaning in logotherapy.

Attitudinal value also can be seen when she faces the other problems that are made by Paul Martin. When the license of her casino is be frozen and Paul Martin as a witness of this case, but in the fact this case is made by himself, Lara is still calm, she does not change the situation she changes her attitude to Paul Martin, she does not give up and speak politely to Paul Martin to forgive her and it works, Paul Martin does not give any bad comment in that case. Lara's attitude to face the fate that she must face in her life is one of the characteristic of human existence. Her patience and her attitude bring her to become a human who has an existence.

"You have the power to destroy me. Is that really what you want? Will sending me to prison make you happy?" She was fighting to hold back her tears. "I'm begging you, Paul. Give me back my life. Please, stop treating me like an enemy..."(Sheldon, 1997: 493).

### 3.2.3.3 Lara's creative value

The last meaning of Lara's life is creative value which is reflected by creating work or doing a deed. Lara's creative value can be divided into three main discussion, depending on where Lara lives, Glace Bay, Chicago and New York.

Creative value is very observable in Lara's life when she lives with her father in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. This value can be seen in Lara's persistence when she works every day. In Glace Bay, she lives with her father in the boarding house, not as a tenant but as a caretaker of that boarding house. Lara's father as a collector of boarder's money, Lara's job is takes care of the boarding house, cleaning and tidying. Lara's job is very beneficial for boarders and for herself. Boarders is greatly benefited by Lara's job, the boarding house becomes cleaner and maintained, beside that this job also a thing that has advantages and fill Lara's daily activities.

Lara's life in Glace Bay has a lot of problems, but she can face it well and decides to continue her carrier in Chicago. Lara's life in Chicago is always accompanied by Howard Keller, a man who always helps Lara in her every step in her life. Creative value is very observable in Lara's life when she lives in Chicago. In Chicago, Lara becomes more motivated to work hard and catches everything that she wants. Working as a real estate developer, is the meaning of life that is always present in Lara's life in every condition of her life. This source of meaning in working always makes Lara being person who has direction and purpose in life. By working hard, she succeeds to build more than three buildings in Chicago, based on the support and help that she gets from Howard Keller. . In Chicago Lara builds her first hotel, named Cameron Palace as the biggest hotel in Chicago, by 3 million dollar and a bunch of strategies in real estate's law, Lara finally succeeds to set up her first hotel and continued with other gorgeous buildings in Chicago. By working hard and creating new buildings, Lara feels that her life is meaningful.

She spent every day with her family: the architects and the construction crew, the carpenters, the electricians and surveyors and plumbers. She was obsessed with the buildings she was putting up. Her stage was Chicago, and she was the star (Sheldon, 1997:134).

Lara's life in Chicago is successful life for Lara. In this City there are more than three Lara's building, Lara becomes more popular and gets a lot of praise.

In New York, Lara's creative values are still her works and her own building. In New York, by focusing on the work she gets the meaning of life in all of her problems life. Meaning in work for Lara is eternal meaning that he will get while he is still able to work and have the willpower at work. "Lara was studying the building more closely, looking at the windows (Sheldon, 1997: 226)."

Other forms of meaning in work for Lara is her own building that she builds from the results of her hard work in the field of real estate. Even, in New York she gets lot of problems that she must face, Lara still has the meaning of her life by working hard. By working hard in her complicated life, Lara feels that her life is more meaningful. It also shows that Lara Cameron is a woman who is always trying to get the meaning of her life.

#### 4. Conclusion

This research raises the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the story that is focuses on the study of the meaning of life of the main character's life in the story by using the elements of the will to meaning, logotherapy, and the meaning of life. In this research, Lara Cameron as the protagonist main character who has characteristic of character development always tries to find the meaning of her life in every condition of her life. The setting, plot and the theme of this story has a great influence to the plot of the story.

Lara's will to meaning motivated herself to get a better life and get the meaning of her life, especially her awful life in the past. The meanings of Lara's life are creative value, experiential value and attitudinal value. In searching of the meaning of life in every condition, Lara has characteristic of the human existence as contained in Logotherapy, such as freedom, responsibility and spirituality.

The main character, Lara Cameron always tries to catch her meaning of life. The first meaning of her life is creative value that is reflected by working hard. By creating and working hard Lara feels that her life is meaningful even in

the awful conditions, her works is very beneficial for others and herself. By concentrating on works and keep trying to do the best, Lara gets the meaning of life in creative value. The second meaning of Lara's life is experiential value. The love that she gets in life is adorned her awful life. By loving and to be loved, Lara feels that her life is full of gorgeous experiences and her life is more meaningful. The last meaning of Lara's life is attitudinal value, how Lara faces the fate in her life. Patiently and willingly, Lara faces the obstacles in her life. Lara gets the meaning of her life by keep trying lives her life and never gives up.

Lara Cameron has characteristic of the human existence. Principles of human existential such as freedom, responsibility and spirituality are always in her life steps. Lara Cameron has an absolute freedom in making decision for her life which is the major characteristic of human existence. Furthermore, Lara Cameron also has responsibility in every decision that she decides in her life. Spirituality also exists in Lara's life, it is shows in the sense of her humanity. In achieving the meaning of life, Lara is always accompanied by freedom, responsibility, and spirituality therefore leads Lara to a better life.

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