

EFFORT TO SURVIVE IN YANN MARTEL'S NOVEL *LIFE OF PI*

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Abstract

This study deals with the analysis of the protagonist's effort to survive in Yann Martel's novel *Life of Pi*. This study focuses on three topics. The topics are reading sea survival guidebook, getting defence from the tiger and defending his life. The novel talks about an Indian teenager, who is trapped in the middle of the fierce sea for 227 days with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. To survive, he makes several attempts. He reads survival guidebook found in the lifeboat. He gets defense from the tiger. Then, he defends a life. In this study, the theory of sea survival was applied. This study used descriptive qualitative method because the process of the result and discussion are accomplished descriptively. By applying descriptive qualitative method, this research can prove that protagonist has some efforts to survive because the topics of the protagonist's efforts to survive really exist and can be faced by the protagonist. Based on the research analysis, three efforts to survive are found in the novel. First, The protagonist, Pi does several things to read sea survival guidebook, to get defence from the tiger, and to defend his life.

Keywords: *defence; effort; protagonist; sea survival; survival*

1. Introduction

Life of Pi talks about an Indian teenager, who is trapped in the middle of the sea for 227 days with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. To survive, he does make several attempts, namely reading survival guidebook that he found in the lifeboat, getting defense from the tiger, and defending his life. One of his efforts is making rafts from lifeboats to prevent tigers from eating, reading sea survival guidebook, filtering seawater into fresh water, fishing, and collecting rainwater for drinking. Pi also always shares food and drink with the tiger, and the tiger feels the need for Pi.

Everyone must have the effort to survive. There are many things that humans can do to survive, for example, working, eating, or doing sport. Survival comes from the word survive, which means to survive. While to survival itself is an uncertain condition faced by a person or group of people in an area that is foreign and isolated for the person or group who is experiencing it. Dwi Yuni (in, Gilang, 2018; Jimmi, Khairunas, & Yulianto, 2022) explains several types of survival:

- a. Sea Survival is a person's ability to survive where life is threatened, before or during, and after leaving offshore waters, due to the dangers of the environment.

- b. Jungle Survival is an uncertain situation faced by a person or group of people in an isolated and isolated area in the forest. Surviving means being able to survive and escape from uncertain conditions. While survivors are individuals or groups of people who are trying to survive in uncertain conditions or conditions that cannot be predicted.
- c. Desert Survival, namely the ability of a person or individual to survive in uncertain conditions such as desert, of course, dehydration is the biggest threat when surviving in the desert. This ability is very much needed considering that it is not easy for rescue teams to find victims quickly in conditions that are difficult to predict.
- d. Antarctic Survival is an unfavorable condition where you have to deal with cold weather on a snowy field, and have to deal with the possibility of being exposed to hypothermia and frostbites to survive here, you need the right skills and decisions to take action so that everything can be done goes well.

2. Literature Review

Survival strategy is a way to defend themselves so that humans can continue their lives. Survival strategy or also called survival comes from the word *survive* which means to maintain life. A survival strategy is a plan of action or activities carried out to survive in any situation. Strategy can be said as a plan that is built to achieve goals. In general, survival strategies can be defined as a person's ability to apply ways to overcome various problems that interfere with life (Suharto, 2009)

There are some efforts to survive:

1. By reading. Reading is a process that is carried out and used by readers to get the message that the writer wants to convey through the medium of words or written language. According to Nurhadi (1995), reading is an interpretation of written symbols or reading is capturing the meaning of a series of symbols. Reading is an activity that is light and simple because reading will have many benefits. Rachmawati (2008) mentions the benefit of reading as follows:
 - a. Increasing intellectual level.
 - b. Acquiring various life knowledge.
 - c. Having a broad perspective and mindset.
 - d. Enriching vocabulary.
 - e. Knowing various events that occur in various parts of the world.
 - f. Increasing faith.
 - g. Getting entertainment.
2. By defense. Defense is the reaction of an agency to an attack and measure and by extension all means and measures of risk or hazard identification and measurement, as well as protection and or response. Self-defense mechanism can be interpreted as how an individual reduces the feelings of depression, anxiety, stress, or conflict by carrying out self-defense mechanisms, both consciously and unconsciously. According to Keliat (1999) a self-defense mechanism is the way that individuals do in solving problems, adapt to changes, and respond to a threatening situation.
3. By defending life. It is the ability to survive in a condition or situation. Defending a life can also be interpreted as a technique or science in dealing with various threats to personal safety. Among outdoor activities activists, defending life is defined as the ability and technique to survive against conditions that endanger survival that occur

in the open by using makeshift equipment. According to Rudystina (2017) there are some attitudes that must be had when defending a life:

a. Passion to stay alive

Every human being must have a reason to stay alive, if you have a family then remember the family at home waiting for you to go home safe. In this case, a lot of what we can do to motivate ourselves, do not to lose to difficult circumstances.

b. Confidence

Believing in yourself is one of the keys to success through survival, do not ever think that we do not capable. Convince yourself that you can get through it.

c. Common Sense

In a state of survival, try to keep your mind healthy, so that you can think of solutions to difficult situations such as surviving at sea. If your colleagues at that time are not able to think, then calm your colleagues so you do not get carried away and do things you do not want.

d. Discipline and Plan

Plan what you will do, you can start with managing food and drink supplies. Because good planning supplies can increase the chances of survival. Never fight over food, there must be one leader who coordinates the food and beverage schedule so that everything is organized and according to plan.

3. Research Method

To do the analysis, a descriptive qualitative research method was used in this study. Namawi (1993) describes qualitative method as a procedure of problem-solving by describing the subject of the study based on visible facts.

In the research, the discussion shows the protagonist's effort to survive due to being trapped in the sea for 227 days with a Bengal tiger. It then takes Massin's distinction (2017) to efforts a physical or mental activity required to reach something. The discussion also applied Yuni's description (2009) of sea survival person's ability to survive where life is threatened before or during and after leaving offshore waters, due to the dangers of the environment. The data were chiefly taken from the novel. The analysis covers three major points i.e., reading the sea survival guidebook, getting defense from a tiger, and defending life. To make the analysis run as expected, the whole data from the novel were classified based on the points and were organized and analyzed respectively.

4. Discussion

The discussion presents the analysis of the protagonist's effort to survive in the novel *Life of Pi*. The analysis focuses on the protagonist's efforts to survive covering reading sea survival guidebook, getting defense from the tiger, and defending his life. Each of the efforts to survive is analyzed in detail in the following sub-topics.

4.1 Reading Sea Survival Guidebook

Reading is a process that is carried out and used by readers to get the message that the writer wants to convey through the medium of words or written language. According to (Nurhadi, 1995: 34) Reading is an interpretation of written symbols by

capturing the meaning of a series of those symbols. By reading the sea survival guidebook Pi can survive in the sea. The book explains so much information and tips that Pi can do and some things that Pi cannot do. Pi is very grateful to get the book so he knows what is right and what is wrong. Pi reads the book carefully and understands the contents of the book. It can be seen from the quotation below.

“I took the sea survival guidebook. the sheets are still wet. I turned the pages of the book carefully. This manual was written by a commander and the British Navy. It contains a collection of practical information about surviving at sea after a shipwreck. It includes the following tips:

1. Read all instructions carefully.
2. Avoid unnecessary tiring activities. But the brain tends to become sluggish if it is rarely used, so the brain must always be busy with whatever light activities can be done. Playing cards and guessing is a very good simple reaction. Singing together can also be uplifting. Spinning yarn is also highly recommended
3. Do not swim. Because it's just a waste of energy. In addition, lifeboats can sail faster than if you swim. Not to mention the danger to marine life. If it's hot, wet your clothes.
4. Do not urinate in the urine on clothes. The temporary warmth that is obtained is not comparable to the itching and blisters that arise.
5. Turtles are easy to catch and can be used as delicious food. The blood is good for drinking, nutritious, and free of salt; the meat is delicious and filling; The fat had many uses, and for shipwreck victims, turtle eggs could be considered a luxury food. Watch out for the beak and claws. Do not be discouraged. You may feel discouraged, but do not give up.” (Martel, 2001: 241)

This survival guidebook is very useful for Pi who has no experience of surviving at sea. By reading this guide, Pi can get information and survival tips.

4.2 Getting Defense from a Tiger

In the novel *Life of Pi*, Pi must defend himself from a tiger because the tiger can eat him and can even attack him. So, Pi decides to tame a 225 kg Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Unfortunately, Pi is confused about how he can tame the Bengal tiger. He tries to look around the horizon and gets the idea. The idea is to pretend like he is in a circus arena because the place is completely round, and there is nowhere for Richard Parker to hide. Pi also looks at the sea, and he thinks it cannot be a source of food that Pi can feed the Bengal tiger so that it can obey him.

Pi gets defence from the Bengal tiger by pretending to be like in the circus arena and by using a whistle as a whip to control the tiger. Pi hopes that through this way, he can tame the tiger with a powerful whistle. Richard Parker sees him and gets up. In the first puff of Pi, the tiger recedes and roars, and in the second puff of Pi, the tiger roars and claws with its claws. Finally, the tiger backs away and goes down to the bottom of the lifeboat. Pi also has a second way to tame the Bengal tiger which is to feed the Bengal tiger because Pi thinks only he can feed the Bengal tiger. Pi also thinks if he continues to feed, the tiger which needs Pi's presence as food. It can be seen in the quotation below.

I bent down, picked up the fish, and threw it at Richard Parker. This is how I tame it. (Martel, 2001: 261)

Pi has a second way to tame the tiger by feeding it. At first, Pi gives mice, and then he gives flying fish. How to feed the tiger is by throwing the fish to the tiger. At that very moment, the tiger's mouth opens wide and immediately catches the fish as thrown by Pi. Pi is confused as to why the flying fish could fly and causes Pi's body to hurt a little, but luckily Pi eats a fish without having to bother fishing after Pi observes that the dorado jumps out of the water, chasing small and medium-sized fish. That is how Pi defends from a tiger by allowing the tiger in two ways, namely pretending as if he was in the circus, using a whistle as a tool to control it and the second way is to feed it.

4.3 Defending his Life

Defending life is the ability to survive in a condition or situation. Defending a life can also be interpreted as technique or science in dealing with various threats to personal safety. Among outdoor activities activists, defending life is defined as the ability and technique to survive against conditions that endanger survival that occurs in the open by using makeshift equipment. For defending his life, Pi must make several efforts so that he can survive in the middle of the sea, such as making a raft to prevent tiger eat him, collecting rainwater to drink, fishing, and filtering seawater into fresh water.

Pi feels insecure while he sleeps for fear that the tiger will attack and eat him, so he decides to build a raft out of light oars, a life jacket, and a strong buoy to prevent the tiger from attacking and eating him. Pi tries to take the oar where the oar is very close to the Bengal tiger. Pi tries to slowly take the oar and the tiger feels the movement fast and fast. Pi pulls the oar slowly and finally succeeds. Pi takes the oar out and puts all the oars on the tarpaulin cover around the lifeboat. Then, the lifeboat is boxed up by the oars, and looks like a game of XO, with the O in the middle, as the first move. Next, the second step, which is very dangerous, is to take a life jacket that is so close to the tiger. Inevitably, Pi has to force himself to take the jacket. Pi starts to reach for the jacket slowly and finally, he manages to get the jacket. Making a raft can be seen in the quotation below.

Finally, I made a raft. Remember, I have some light oars that float. I also have some life jackets and a life jacket. (Martel, 2001: 217).

Pi builds a raft to survive. By making raft Pi feels safe because it has some distance between him and the bengal tiger. Pi's second way of surviving is by collecting rainwater as that is the only source of water he has. Using the rainwater, he can overcome his thirst and can give water to the tiger. He takes the rainwater catcher and immediately takes the rainwater. Actually the wind is so strong, he has to change the position of the rainwater catcher to a safe place.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the protagonist's efforts to survive in Yann Martel's novel *Life of Pi*, some conclusions can be put forward. Trying to survive in life is important to get a better life. There are three forms of survival efforts described in the

novel, namely reading a survival guidebook at sea, getting defense from tigers, and defending his life. Surviving in the fierce sea with a tiger is not an easy thing for humans to do. However, Pi can survive by reading the sea survival guidebook and doing what is in the contents of the sea survival guidebook. Getting defense from a tiger by taming the tiger is found in the novel. He can do that by acting as if he is in a circus, by using a whistle that functions as a whip, and, by feeding the tiger is Pi's way of taming a Bengal tiger, Richard Parker. Defending his life, Pi must do things that he has not done, such as making a raft from a lifeboat to prevent the tiger from eating him, collecting rainwater to drink, fishing, and filtering seawater into fresh water.

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