

Negation Of Volition: A Critical Study Of Veronika Decides To Die

Shabeer Iqbal¹, Zeeshan Khan², Fawad Ullah³, Roheela⁴

¹MPhil Scholar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Pakistan. Email: Shabeeriqbal66@gmail.com

²MPhil Scholar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Pakistan. Email: Imaginative165@gmail.com

³MA-HESA, Department of Higher Education at Beijing Normal University, China. Email: Rockstarmf14id069@gmail.com

⁴MPhil Scholar, Northern University Nowshera, Pakistan. Email: Serenetwilight57@gmail.com

Abstract

Free will, choice, and autonomy in decision-making not only provide people with a sense of freedom, but these are also essential for self-realization and self-actualization. Depriving an individual of free will and choice is like robbing a person of his status of humanity. This research is going to examine the impacts of free will and choice on individuals when they are denied to them. The research will also demonstrate the impacts of negating the volition to individual life and career. This negation of volition refers to the rejection of someone's own decisions or their ability of decision-making and free choice. Liberal humanism, Free Choice Theory and Maslow's (1943) Self-actualization theory will be taken as the conceptual framework of the thesis. The first hand data will be obtained from Paulo Coelho's (1999) novel, Veronika Decides to Die, while secondary data will be collected from books, library, journals and other internet sources. The study will use the approach of qualitative research. Selected data from the novel by Paulo Coelho will be examined through the lens of close reading. This dissertation will also illustrate how different characters of the novel recognize the meaning of their present life/status after having got the freedom of choice and the right of making their own decisions.

Keywords: free choice; free will; negation; self-actualization; self-realization; volition.

INTRODUCTION

The divine blessings bestowed upon man from the first day, are free will and free choice. Adam and Eve had made the choices to feed from the tree of knowledge, or not. Man is born free, and he has free hand to make choices about future, career and life because man has the ability to make decisions. This ability to make decisions not only distinguishes man from animals but it is also important for man to make sure that the best use of mind is made for better selection among many. From day one, human nature has been obsessed with people's practices of

interrupting in other people's freedom of choice or even attempting to negate the fundamental human rights of will and free choice. People either want to show their dominancy or they find themselves more competent and experienced from others. Sometimes, as in the case of parents and children or teachers and students, as they guide them, this interference is beneficial. But sometimes, such interference will become the source of many issues. If somebody is trying to enforce their will or judgment on others, it will certainly be very detrimental to others. Such compliance will

not only affect their career but they will also suffer from such acts in their personal lives.

This research focuses on how volition to the main characters is negated in Paulo Coelho's (1999) *Veronika Decides to Die*. The research also demonstrate how the novel's characters suffered from the coerced will of others. The protagonist, Veronika, attempts suicide at an early age because she realized that she is not living her own life. She wishes to become a pianist but her mother has pressured her to become a 'normal person' like others, in the future. Another character, Eduard, suffered from schizophrenia because he was forced from his parents to follow his father steps to become an ambassador instead of painter. To the other two characters, Zedka and Mary, this volition is also negated, which sent them both to the mental hospital.

Statement of the Problem

Freedom of choice and free will are the qualities that distinguish human beings from other creatures. If they may choose how to live their lives, they will be happy and fulfilled. Free choice is the result of "assessment and judgment; that is, the appraisal of different possibilities and making a decision on which option to choose," according to Beresford and Sloper (2008). (p. 7). Thus, multiple options give people true freedom of choice.

Kane (2005) says freedom is more than just fulfilling our desires. "Surface freedom" describes it. Freedom and free will refer to how much man can choose. Kane believes modern civilization manipulates our thoughts, choices, and actions. TV, radio, newspaper, social media, salespeople, and marketers influence our choices. Friends, family, and society also steal these goods from man. In this fast-paced environment, people with freedom of choice make good decisions and are confident in their life.

Those who cannot choose may fall behind in life.

Research Questions

- 1) How is the volition to the main characters negated in the context of *Veronika Decides to Die*?
- 2) What are the outcomes of the enforced (imposed) will on the lives and careers of the main characters of *Veronika Decides to Die*?
- 3) How do the main characters realize the purpose of their lives in light of *Veronika Decides to Die*?

Significance of the Study

Man from day one struggles for freedom of choice and decision-making autonomy. Here, in this world, man has to face various restrictions from religion as well as society. This research will show that what happens when somebody or something forbids people to make their own choices and decisions. These restrictions not only affect an individual physically, but they also have enormous effects on an individual's psyche. One should value an individual's selection and decision. By listening to and valuing our children, adolescent and adults not only we can prevent them from misleading but it will give courage and support for building their career and to live a happy life.

Literature Review

This chapter includes the literature related to the selected area of the study. The literature review is hoped to assess the essence of the research. The researcher collected different reviews for the study and the analysis of literature is broken down into five broad categories: defining volition and free will, indecisiveness, factors affecting free will and volition, impacts of negation of volition and

rejection and self-decisions; relating their benefits and role in career goals.

Defining Volition and Free Will

Self-determination and individualism define 21st-century men. Man battles for democracy, free choice, and volitional liberty today. One cannot be denied these essential human rights. Humans have always had free will and choice. Heaven's first humans had free will. Adam and Eve chose the finest for themselves. From the beginning of the universe, man is free to choose.

Humans choose. From the time we realise we have free choice, we interact socially. Choosing ability improves. Man must survive in this world, which requires strategy, cooperation, and independence. "Volition, scholars explore how action is planned, controlled, and regulated in the service of the agent's wants, motives, desires, or goals," say Sebanz and Prinz (2006) (pp. 2-3). Volition is the ability to choose a course and develop plans to achieve goals in life and profession.

"The will is free in the degree that it is instructed and disciplined by moral principle," says Campbell (1957) (p. 5). Human free will is natural. It is human-related, not new. If one knows good and evil, free will does not deceive. According to Augustine (King, 2010), human choice and volition are limited. Only God chooses and decides. Man is not responsible for many of his actions. "We are responsible only for acts done out of free choice" (p. 21), according to Augustine, who also believes that humans cannot develop good will. Man instinctively chooses between options. Campbell (1957) believes "man can be regarded to exercise free will in a morally meaningful sense just so far as his chosen act is one of which he is the sole cause or author" (p. 4). Man is not accountable for all world events. When they

are involved, people are responsible for what happens.

Kane (2005) defines freedom as more than merely fulfilling wishes. Surface freedom is this. Freedom and free will are how much a person can choose for himself. Kane (2005) says numerous elements influence our thoughts, choices, and decisions in modern society. Television, radio, newspapers, social media, salesmen, and marketers influence our judgments. Friends, family, and community impact man's views, choices, and decisions.

"The conclusion of a process which incorporates assessment and judgment; that is, the appraisal of numerous possibilities and making a decision about which option to choose," says Beresford and Sloper (2008) (p. 8). Beresford and Sloper agree that the selection manager needs two or more options based on preference. Using intelligence and experience, a person can choose the best option. A person's will and decision let him choose what's best. These traits let people chose from numerous. Schwartz (2005) believes "choice has an obvious and significant instrumental value; it enables people to achieve what they need and want in life" (p. 104). Thus, if people utilise their free will and choices wisely, they can choose a career and life that suits them.

Feldman (2014) found that free-will believers make better decisions. Feldman (2014) found that persons who believed in free will enjoyed making good decisions more than others. They feel more confident making decisions. Career and personal success is higher for persons who can see opportunities and make decisions quickly. They are self-confident and happy with their choices. Confidential decisions aid life goals. "Free will, in the technical sense of an agent's having a choice between more than one path

of action in many contexts, is a major presupposition of our best scientific theories of agency, at least when these theories are read literally,” says List (2014). (p. 21). People have varied views on free will and choice, but the idea is that each individual is free to choose and decide for himself. No one will interfere. In complex situations, they can make better decisions.

Life is more about free choice and self-decision. According to List (2014), “giving up free will is unattractive because free will is important to our self-conception as agents capable of rational deliberation and decision-making, and especially to our allocation of responsibility to each other, which lies at the heart of morality and the law” (P. 2). Free will and decision-making abilities hold people accountable and elevate them in society. Free will distinguishes humans from animals. Thus, mankind receives this divine gift.

Volition therefore, is the capacity to make decisions correctly and timely according to the circumstances designed and regulated. Free will is the option of best choice from the different alternatives available. This is also assumed that because of their self-decision, people who appreciate free will have more chance of progressing. While those deprived of these rights of free will and free choice can suffer in one way or the other in their lives. Major characters of the novel *Veronika Decides to Die* are stripped of the right to self-decision that is taken from their free will which affects their lives and struggle to advancement. They suffer so much so, because of their odd behavior that they are taken to a mental institution.

Research Methodology

This study follows qualitative research approach. Qualitative research is defined by Berg (2001) as: “Quality refers to the what, how, when, and where of a thing its essence and ambience. Qualitative research thus refers to the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions of things” (p. 3). This research uses the method of close reading for studying the data collected from the selected novel. Close reading is a method of literary analysis which focuses on the specific details of a passage or text in order to discern some deeper meanings present in it. The object of the research is the novel of Paulo Coelho’s *Veronika Decides to Die*. For this research, the information and data source are divided into two groups. First hand data of this research is the novel of Paulo Coelho. And secondary data is collected from other relevant books, articles, journals, magazines and from other sources of internet. The present research focuses on studying and understanding the lives of the different characters of the selected novel, suffering from their indecisiveness and the effects of imposing one’s will on others.

Research Design

Research design is divided into different types like qualitative research and quantitative research. In this study, the researcher has used qualitative research method. In order to analyze, understand and interpret the chosen paragraphs and characters of the novel *Veronika Decides to Die* within their specific contexts, the researcher chose qualitative design. In addition, this approach also helped the researcher to interpret his own views and comments on some topics addressed in the current study. Qualitative research can thus be used to look for the answers of what, why, where and how. It is also useful to study and

comprehend smaller items in detail and with clarity. In the present scenario, it helped the researcher to find how, why and when are free will and choices denied to certain characters? It also helped the researcher to find out the impacts of the negation of volition on the lives of the chosen characters.

Close Reading as an Analysis Method

To analyze a literary text is to know the various components that make it up; to identify the relationship among the various elements and to recognize the relationship of the components to the whole. The purpose of the literary analysis is the comprehension of a literary work as a coherent and complete whole. The present researcher chose close reading method for the analysis and interpretation of the selected paragraphs from the novel, *Veronika Decides to Die*. The researcher has used Barnet and Cain's model of close reading as a data analysis tool. Text of the selected paragraphs from the novel was taken for interpretation and for highlighting the importance of choice and free will and its crucial role in the lives and careers of individuals. It also showed the importance of self-realization in the lives of the chosen characters.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter includes detailed analysis and interpretation of the textual data. Various selected paragraphs from the novel *Veronika Decides to Die* have been analyzed and interpreted by the researcher with complete information. The researcher has used plain and simple terminology for the purpose of clear interpretation. The actual text of the selected novel is enclosed in double quotation marks for the convenience of the readers.

A Life of Imposition

“Veronika had been.....numerous examples of this”. (Coelho, 1999: 2-3)

Reference to the Context

The selected paragraphs are about the indecisive and passive nature of the protagonist of the novel, Veronika. She was fed up of the life, imposed on her and wanted to end it in the form of suicide but she was unable to decide how to commit suicide.

Analysis and Interpretation

The main theme of these paragraphs is to describe the indecisive nature of the novel's heroine, Veronika. She was unable to make right decisions about her life, her career and about her suicide attempt too. The paragraphs are taken from the first chapter of the novel and they contribute in forwarding the story of the novel as they selected paragraphs are proved to be the climax of the story in the case of Veronika, which becomes the turning point of her life after a failed suicide attempt. The style of the above paragraphs is emotional and descriptive.

Struggle for Freedom

“The tubes had been taken out..... going to and from work”. (Coelho, 1999: 18-19)

Reference to the Context

The above paragraphs describe the struggle of Veronika for her life and her freedom in the Intensive Care Unit the mental hospital. After a failed suicide attempt Veronika was admitted to the hospital, unconsciously. After several days, she came to her senses but still her condition was worst. After that in her inner monologue, she wishes a normal life.

Analysis and Interpretation

The main theme of this paragraph refers to Veronika's fight for her freedom and independence when she was taken against her will to the Villeté, a mental institution. She was lying there in the ward of the Villeté for several days in unconscious condition but when she came to her senses, she started struggle for physical independence and for the liberty of her mind too "And it's nothing to do with what you can see happening in my body, it's what's happening in my soul" (p. 22). She was uttering these words to the doctors because she was considering herself trapped in her life. She wanted to commit suicide to free her body and her soul but she was saved in order to live that restricted life again. She attempted to kill herself, but luckily or unluckily, she was rescued by someone unknown to her.

Some lines in the above paragraphs are narrated in the form of third person narration which shows the inner feelings of Veronika after she came to her consciousness for the second time. A few words are narrated by the nurse too in first person narration. Then the last paragraph is the interior monologue of Veronika in the first person narration. Through her monologue, the readers come to know what she was thinking and planning for leaving the mental hospital because here, she feels that there are restrictions on her soul and her body; while she was in search of freedom. The style of the author in these paragraphs is somewhat euphemistic, describing the worst condition of Veronika in a plain manner.

The setting of the above paragraphs is the ICU of the Villeté. Her condition was critical that is why she was brought to the Intensive Care Unit for better care and cure. She was lying on the bed and was naked, covered only by a sheet. Her dress was removed for injecting different types of tubes and wires in order to check her heart beat regularly.

Different types of wires and tubes were connected to her head and heart that were controlling her every movement. Her hands were strapped down for the reason that if she comes to consciousness, she may not harm herself and other people around her. The small area around her was covered by green curtains in order to prevent other patients seeing her naked body covered with tubes. Two characters are mentioned in the selected paragraphs. The first one is Veronika, lying naked and in an unconscious condition. The second one is the nurse who is there to look after her. The nurse was sitting there on a chair, near Veronika's bed, reading a book to busy herself so as not to see the worst condition of Veronika, because she cannot bear this.

In her unconsciousness, Veronika was admitted to mental hospital after a failed suicide attempt. The mental hospital was known as the Villeté, and this mental hospital was a notorious place, according to the author. A nurse present there told her when Veronika came to her conscious for the first time that "it's not really hell,' the voice went on. It's worse than hell" (p. 10). The image of this hospital was very negative in the society because the doctors there used those old therapies for treatment of the patients which were banned because of its horrific effects on them, like electric shocks insulin shocks. Both of these procedures were dangerous methods and therefore banned in psychiatric hospitals. This hospital was erected in the old barracks in 1991. The Villeté was full up of all kinds of insane people. Some were truly insane sent by the courts, while others came to get rid of their domestic issues.

In that condition, she was really uncomfortable, but she was not going to complain. She may have the opinion that her emotions and free will are of no interest to the

people around her and this became real when she asked the nurse to unstrap her arms, who was reading a book there “The nurse looked up, said a brusque ‘NO’, and went back to her book” (p. 18). This harsh reply depicts the situation faced by the patients in the mental hospitals.

The last paragraph is the first few lines of a long interior monologue by Veronika in which she was certain that now she was rescued; therefore, a chance seemed to her to start her new life in a different way. Here, once again the core of her indecisiveness appears before the readers. She sees a new life there and wanted to make arrangements to leave the hospital and see again the streets of Ljubljana and start her work again. In her life, she was completely confused and was aware of this issue. She was not confident at making and taking her decisions “And she was shocked by how quickly she could change her mind” (p. 5). She was changing her mind again and again because in her life, she had no practice of taking her own decisions. In the hospital too, she was changing her mind again and again. She attempt suicide in order to end her life but she was rescued and once again she was making plans to start a new normal life after the release from the Vilete.

Madness as Freedom

“Veronika laughed
Beyond the walls of Vilete?” (Coelho, 1999: 31)

Reference to the Context

The above paragraph is the conversation between Veronika and the other patient, Zedka, admitted in the Vilete. According to Veronika, Zedka was not mad actually, rather she was a witty character and her dialogues were very meaningful. Zedka’s treatment

was in progress and according to the senior doctor of the hospital, soon she will be released from the Vilete.

Analysis and Interpretation

The main theme of this paragraph is Zedka’s seeking the freedom in her madness. According to the conversation of two important characters i.e. Veronika and Zedka, being mad provides an opportunity to enjoy the real freedom of life. They were discussing the free environment of the mental hospital. Zedka is a round character in the novel who frequently changes her mind about certain things and issues. She was not really mad; she was just depressed but made the society realize that she was mad and unable to take any responsibility. She was 35 years old woman who was admitted into the Vilete for the treatment of her chronic depression that caused due to her failure in love affair with a married man. According to Veronika, she seemed normal. Veronika met Zedka in the ward and she was impressed by her because of her meaningful conversation. The main theme of this paragraph is the mock or pseudo madness of Zedka.

The above paragraph is narrated in the form of first person narration through which the readers came to know that Zedka was suffering from chronic depression and soon her treatment would be complete. The readers also come to know through their conversation that Zedka was not willing to leave the mental hospital because here, she was enjoying the freedom of her will a lot. The setting of these actions was the ward of the Vilete. Veronika was now shifted to the ward because her condition was now better. They were talking in the ward, where other patients were sleeping. A nurse was on her duty there, reading a book to realize to the patients that they are not being watched. Actually, she was always there guarding the ward and taking

care of the patients. The tone of these lines is somewhat philosophical, in which a pseudo mad person talks with a lot of sense. Zedka was declared mad but her conversation with Veronika was full of logic and philosophy. The conversation between these two characters reveal that Zedka was introduced by herself, and also by Veronika through third person narration technique.

Veronika thought that this woman is not actually mad because she was talking with a lot of sense. She asked more about her and her problems. Zedka told her that she was lacking a particular chemical and her treatment was in progress. Further, she said that soon her treatment will go well and she will get rid of her chronic depression and will be able to leave the mental hospital. But then she told Veronika that she will not leave the Villette because outside the Villette, the society is not allowing the people to live their life according to their own choices. The society and family are enforcing their own will on the people, thus, rejecting the pure feelings of an individual (Research Question 1). She was rejected by her beloved and because of that rejection, she suffered a lot and now she was declared as mad.

Self-Actualization

“Veronika pushed open the door..... It passed away completely”. (Coelho, 1999: 63)

Reference to the Context

These lines show a glimpse of transformation of Veronika passive behavior to aggressive one. Veronika was experiencing new things and emotions in the mental hospital. Thinking about these harsh feelings, she began to play the piano with her heart and soul, which erased all her rebellious emotions.

Analysis and Interpretation

The setting for the action mentioned in the above paragraph is the mental hospital lounge, where a piano was kept. Veronika entered the lounge with full emotions. She was overwhelmed with feelings of hate. She pounded on the piano keys and, for hours, played many tunes. In Villette, she experienced new things and emotions. She beat an old man, mistreated the nurses, and all these things were happening because she was unable to restrain her emotions of hatred. She was also shocked by her unusual actions and emotions. It seemed she had no control over her emotions and herself. Only one character, Veronika, is mentioned in the selected paragraph. She was angry, feeling hatred and wanted to play piano in the lounge. The above paragraph contributes a lot in the climax of the story in the case of Veronika. In this paragraph Veronika finally achieves her dream by playing piano with full passion.

Veronika’s dialogues are narrated in the form of first person narration in a kind of monologue. The narration of the 1st person shows Veronika’s rebellious thoughts in which she announced that she was angry and encouraged others to hate her; she could do whatever she liked. The tone of the narrative of the third person is descriptive and rational, which describes the setting of the lounge and Veronika’s feelings explicitly. She realized her childhood dream of being a pianist by playing the piano with her heart and soul “She pounded the piano again, once, twice, ten, twenty times” (P. 63). She struck heavily and repeatedly on the piano because she was angry at that time and after a long time she had the opportunity to play the piano with strong and powerful emotions. Playing piano with such a powerful emotions helped her reducing her harsh feelings.

In this paragraph, the principal theme explored was the achievement of self-actualization and realization by Veronika in the form of playing piano impatiently. It was her childhood dream to be a pianist but she was not permitted to become what she wanted. Self-actualization is at the top of the pyramid of the basic needs of an individual. Self-actualization and realization is actually the desire of a person to know and use their full potential, abilities, talents, and the desire to become everything they are capable of. In the lounge of the mental hospital, Veronika had a chance to fulfil her childhood dream of being a pianist. During childhood, her parents rejected her wish and now, after some of the initial constraints, in the Villette, she was given the opportunity to do what she wanted. With her heart and soul, she played the piano, and all her harsh feelings of hate are gone now “Her hatred seemed to diminish, until it passed away completely” (P. 63). She was striking hard on the keys of the piano because she was angry, she was not hurting someone rather, utilizing her emotions in something positive.

Self-Realization

“That’s how it should be
Had wanted to take her”. (Coelho, 1999: 92).

Reference to the Context

A great master of the Sufi tradition, Nasirudin, was invited by the Villette administration for the lecture. His lecture was about how the real ‘I’ could be realized. By the actual ‘I’ he meant an individual’s inner self or self-actualization. Many of the patient including Veronika and Zedka were attending his lecture.

Analysis and Interpretation

The hall of the Villette, a psychiatric institution, is the setting for the above

paragraph. It was the place where the mad people gathered and talked on different issues. For the insane people of the mental hospital, the management of the Villette arranged a lecture by Sufi master Nasirudin. The lecture was aimed at understanding the true ‘I’ or inner self. Two narrations narrate the above paragraph i.e. first person and third person.

There is a dialogue between the Sufi master and Veronika in the first person narrative in which she asked various questions on self-realization from the master. The Sufi master answered her questions rationally. The readers are told from the third person perspective that Veronika began to think of various ways through which she could discover who she was. She thought of hate, passion, terror, curiosity, and the will to live. She was even starting to dream about having a true orgasm. The style of these lines is philosophical and persuasive in which the author has tried to demonstrate through the narrative of the first person that only freedom and independence would accomplish the real ‘I’.

The great Sufi master, whose name was Nasirudin, was one of the characters listed in the paragraph. He arrived four hours late. As a drunken man, he first appeared on the stage, flirting with a woman. Many people left because of his uncomfortable actions and only nine people were sitting in the hall. The readers learn through the narration of the third person that master Nasirudin was the one that everyone called the ‘madman’ in the Sufi tradition. By his fellow man, he was considered insane because he was free to say anything and did what he wanted.

In this paragraph, the key theme explored is how to achieve self-realization. Whenever you want to accomplish your goal, according to the Sufi master, you should become

madder; you should be different from others. The argument, however, was that you do not disclose it to the rest of the people of the world. Behave like a normal person and do not get people's attention. Zedka, who was not mad in real, even has the same point of view. She claimed that all individuals who wanted to do something different, including Einstein and Columbus, were considered insane by the society at that time "Anyone who live in their own world is mad" (P. 30). This is the reality of the life that doing something bigger and the best, you should need to be different and unique from other people. People call madness to this uniqueness. But this quality is much more necessary for the achievement of the goals.

When Nasirudin mentioned this stuff, Veronika posed a question at that moment about, what the true 'I' is. Philosophically, the Sufi master referred to the question that the real 'I' or inner self is your own feelings, thinking, choice, independence and will "It's what you are, not what others make of you" (P. 92). It means that you will be able to understand yourself when you are free to live your own life. If you are free to do what you want, and you can decide what is right for you then you can know and achieve the true 'I'. If someone is trying to enforce his or her own will and judgment on a person, it is very hard to achieve the level of self-realization.

CONCLUSION

This study was conducted to explore the effects of free will and choice on individuals when they are denied to them. The research also focused on the consequences of negating the volition to individual life and career. This denial of volition relates to the rejection of someone's own choices or their ability to make decisions and choose freely. The importance of choice and self-decision making for self-realization and self-

actualization was also explored in this research.

With the critical revival of the available literature on the subject and theories, themes, and analysis that emerged from the data were enhanced. In the analysis chapter, different themes were recognized and evaluate comprehensively. The discussion below concentrates on the experiences of the four main characters of the chosen novel, research questions, objectives and the themes arising from the analysis of data.

Key Findings

Under sixteen distinct themes and headings, the researcher conducted the data analysis. These themes are linked in one way or another to the following topics:

Imposed Life was also an important theme evaluate in the analysis of the data. Various characters, along with the negation of the volition of the characters by various elements (family and society), lived an enforced life as well. The family, as in the case of Veronika and Eduard, or community, as in the case of Mari, carried the imposition. Not only did this imposition of will on the chosen characters dismiss their choice, but it also made them live a life that was burden. They attempted to compromise with it for a while, but were unable to do so in the end. They were unable to survive in society normally because of such an uncomfortable and offensive life and were sent to the insane asylum. Some of them (Eduard, Mari) were insane in real life, and some of them were faux mad (Zedka) to escape life forced on them.

Struggle for Freedom was the theme related to all the four main characters of the selected novel. All the characters tried to attain their independence, freedom of life, freedom of

choice and making self-decision. When the chosen characters felt that the society was snatching their rights of free choice, they all gave preference to mental hospital to live in where they were able to live their lives with freedom. Veronika, the main character, even tried to kill herself for attaining such a freedom for her life.

REFERENCES

1. Beresford, B., & Sloper, P. (2008). Understanding the dynamics of decision making and choice: A scoping study of key psychological theories to inform the design and analysis of the Panel Study. York: University of York.
2. Berg, B. L. (2001). Qualitative research methods for the social sciences. (4th Ed.) Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
3. Campbell, C. A. (1957). Has the self 'free will'? On Selfhood and Godhood, 158-179.
4. Feldman, G., Baumeister, R. F., & Wong, K. F. E. (2014). Free will is about choosing: The link between choice and the belief in free will. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 55, 239-245.
5. Kane, R., (2005). A contemporary Introduction to free will. New York: Cambridge University Press.
6. List, C. (2014). Free will, determinism, and the possibility of doing otherwise. 48(1), 156-178.
7. Schwartz, B. (2004). The paradox of choice: Why more is less. New York: Harper Collins Publishers Inc.
8. Sebanz, N., & Prinz, W. (Eds.). (2006). Disorders of volition. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.