

**HEAVEN'S CONCEPT IN MITCH ALBOM'S *THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU***

***MEET IN HEAVEN: AN INTERTEXTUAL ANALYSIS***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Literature



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**YOGYAKARTA**

**2016**

## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other writer's opinions or findings include in the graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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**PENGESAHAN SKRIPSI/TUGAS AKHIR**

Nomor: UIN.02/DA/PP.009/ 1292 /2016

Skripsi / Tugas Akhir dengan judul:

**HEAVE'S CONCEPT IN MITCH ALBOM'S *THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN*: AN INTERTEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

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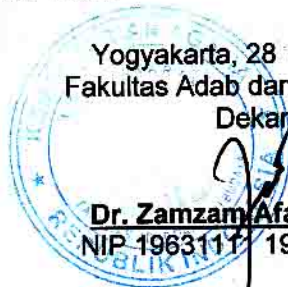
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saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi sebagian syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatian yang diberikan, saya ucapkan terimakasih.

*Wassalamu 'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

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**HEAVEN'S CONCEPT IN MITCH ALBOM'S *THE FIVE PEOPLE  
YOU MEET IN HEAVEN*: AN INTERTEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

**ABSTRACT**

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a novel which tells about life and afterlife journey of Eddie, an 83 year old lame man who works as maintenance in amusement park named Ruby Pier. Eddie dies when he is trying to save a child in Freddy's Free Fall accident. His death guides him into Heaven and meets with five people who somehow affected his former life. Here, the concept of Heaven is depicted in the novel. However, Heaven appears as something unique. Heaven is a journey to understand the meaning of life. Heaven concurrently represent different and similar idea for the researcher. This research aims to find the interconnection between Heaven's concept depicted in the novel and related Qur'an verses through its texts. This research uses qualitative method and close reading as the technique of collecting data. This research applies intertextuality theory by Julia Kristeva as the main theory and Islamic research methodology as perspective approach. Intertextuality states that no text stands by its own and there is interconnection among text to others text. The researcher finds that there is interconnection between texts in both of Heaven's concept. It can be seen from their similarities and differences. By knowing them, this research finds that the interconnection elucidated by the researcher's interpretation. The similarities and differences found signify that people have their own idea of Heaven and they all have to be respected.

**Keywords:** *heaven, intertextuality, Islamic perspective, The Five People You Meet in Heaven.*

## HEAVEN'S CONCEPT IN MITCH ALBOM'S *THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN*: AN INTERTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

### ABSTRAK

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* merupakan sebuah novel yang menceritakan perjalanan hidup dan hidup setelah mati Eddie, seorang lelaki tua pincang berusia 83 tahun yang bekerja sebagai penjaga di taman hiburan bernama Ruby Pier. Eddie meninggal saat tengah berusaha menyelamatkan seorang anak kecil dalam kecelakaan Freddy's Free Fall. Kematianannya menuntun Eddie masuk ke dalam surga dan bertemu dengan lima orang yang entah bagaimana telah mempengaruhi hidup sebelumnya. Disini, konsep surga digambarkan dalam novel. Tetapi, surga muncul sebagai sebuah tempat yang unik. Surga adalah sebuah perjalanan untuk memahami arti kehidupan. Surga secara bersamaan menggambarkan ide yang berbeda dan sama dengan ide peneliti. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencari interkoneksi(keterkaitan) antara konsep surga yang digambarkan di dalam novel dan ayat-ayat Al-Quran yang berkaitan melalui teksnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan membaca teliti sebagai teknik pengumpulan data. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori intertekstual dari Julia Kristeva sebagai teori utama dan metode penelitian Islam sebagai pendekatan persektif. Intertekstual menyatakan bahwa tidak ada teks yang berdiri sendiri dan adanya keterkaitan antara satu teks dengan teks yang lain. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa ada keterkaitan diantara teks di dalam kedua konsep surga. Hal ini bisa dilihat dari persamaan dan perbedaan mereka. Dengan mengetahui hal tersebut, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa keterkaitan yang ada dijelaskan berdasarkan interpretasi peneliti. Persamaan dan perbedaan yang ditemukan menandakan bahwa orang-orang mempunyai ide mereka sendiri tentang surga dan ide mereka harus dihormati.

**Kata kunci:** *surga, intertekstual, perspektif Islam, The Five People You Meet in Heaven.*

**MOTTO**

*NO STORY SITS by itself. Sometimes stories meet at corners and  
sometimes they cover one another completely, like stones  
beneath a river—  
Mitch Albom*



## DEDICATION

to dearest *Bapak* Asbani and *Mamah* Sri,  
for always letting me to be me.  
to my only one brother, who will grow old together,  
Faiz.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Assalamualaikum wr. wb.*

*Alhamdulillahirobbil'alamin.* First and foremost, I deliver my gratitude to Allah SWT who has given me His mercies and blessings in guiding me to finish this graduating paper. Second, may peace and salutation presented to our Prophet Muhammad SAW as Muslim's guidance. Third, my special acknowledgment given to *Bapak* and *Mamah*, two bundle of souls who always pray the best for their children over there. I hope that I would find the proper word to express my gratitude. But I know, thank will never be enough. I love both of you more than anything in this world, *Pak, Maa.*

On this occasion, I would like to convey my acknowledgment for those people who have given me remarkable contribution in finishing this little work.

1. The Dean of Adab and Cultural Sciences, Dr. Zamzam Afandi M. Ag.
2. My advisor, Witriani, M. Hum. Thank you for every suggestion and motivation throughout these months. Thank you for guiding me patiently in making this research worth through all my limits.
3. Dr. Ubaidillah, M. Hum, as the head of English Department and as my academic advisor. Thank you for every single of inspiration.
4. Danial Hidayatullah, M. Hum as my first examiner.
5. Ulyati Retno Sari, M. Hum as my second examiner
6. My hero, a wisest and kindest man, *Bapak* Asbani. Thank you for being my great father. I do feel honor for being your daughter.

7. My angel, a super woman who is fated to be my mother, *Mamah Sri*.  
Don't even getting old, *Maa*.
8. My only one brother, *Dek Faiz*. Let's grow old together and be proud children for our parents!
9. My big family, thank you for every support and spirit. It is always nice to return to home and meet with those sincere smiles.
10. All lecturers of English Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta: Mr. Ubaidillah, Mr. Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, Mr. Dwi Margo Yuwono, Mr. Danial Hidayatullah, Mr. Arif Budiman, Mr. Bambang Hariyanto, Mrs. Witriani, Mrs. Ulyati Retno Sari, Mrs. Febriyanti DL, Mrs. Jiah Fauziah (may Allah gives her the best place in His side), Mr. Ainul Yaqin and Mrs. Miftahus Sa'adah. Thank you for sharing the worth knowledge.
11. My familyship, *Mamah Bun*, *Kak Hik*, *Kak Supri*, *Kak Ucik*, *Tante Yuni*, *Atto*, *Fufu*, *Om Caca*, *Kak Oni*, *Anwar*, and *Kak Irfan*. Thanks to walk together and let me know that being myself is the best way I've ever chose.
12. Wahid Hasyim Islamic Boarding School. Such an honor of having chance to live and study there. Thank you for letting me tries many things I think impossible.
13. My friends in An-Najah Dormitory, especially; *Nayli*, *Mbak Ela*, *Rini*, *Mbak Offa*, *Neni*, *Mbak Mira*, and *Dek Ipong*. Thank you for showing me

the warmth of family in our second home. Thank you for struggling along this way together.

14. My ECC's siblings, it always becomes an adorable meeting to be gathered with.

15. My kindhearted sister, *Mbak* Haida. Thank you for always answer my annoying questions and struggle along these months together.

16. My childhood friend, Ikul. Thanks for never giving me a space to be gloomy.

17. A half of happiness, *Abang*.

18. All my colleges' friends, especially English Literature Department 2012's batch, Class A.

19. All prudent readers.

I realize that perfection only belongs to Allah SWT. Criticisms and suggestions are expected to improve this research. Last but not least, I sincerely express my endless gratitude from the depth of my heart.

Yogyakarta, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The Researcher

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature has its various works. They are prose, poem, drama, or film. Literature creates imagination and does not always present as a fact or a reality. However, it may be created based on true story. Literature serves imaginative story. Literature commonly aims to entertain the readers with its pleasure story. Literature is able to move the readers' view by its characters, complicated plots, and surprising events. Literature can also make the readers involved inside the story.

Literature reflects human's life stories. According to DiYanni, stories do more than entertain. They instruct us by showing us things about our world we had not known before reading them (2002: 2). One kind of genre in literature is fiction. Fiction stories have not only pleasure characters and plot, but also their own purpose that they will show to the readers. Fiction commonly has good moral values to be accepted by the readers.

According to Abrams, fiction in an inclusive sense is any literary narrative, whether in prose or verse, which is invented instead of being an account of events that actually happened (2009: 116). This means that fiction emerges something new or as a beginning towards an event that already happened. Fiction has no exact

truthfulness since it is written by the narrator. Readers' fiction may have a different conclusion by the narrator's point of view.

One kind of fictions is novel. According to Abrams, the term *novel* is now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of *fiction* written in prose (2009: 226). Novel distinguishes itself with another work like short stories. Hence, novel has greater components like its greater characters, complicated plots, and larger scope of story.

This research analyzes novel since novel is literary media that commonly portrays human's life. A novel becomes popular because its theme and language style that follows latest model in a society (Adi, 2011: 20). However, people may claim that a novel is called popular depending on how much it is sold. Popular novel does not always mean best selling but, popular novel also means well-liked novel. Since it becomes a well-liked novel, it can be accepted by mass or readers well. This research analyzes one popular novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* written by Mitch Albom. Novel is always interesting to be analyzed since it serves unlimited imagination for the readers.

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel tells about the journey of Eddie, an 83 year old lame man between his life and his afterlife. Eddie worked in the amusement park called Ruby Pier as the maintenance. Eddie was trapped in a hopeless life. Eddie's youth was quite different to Eddie's old. He ever became a

soldier in World War II. There, Eddie tried to save a child who will be burned in a camp, but he got injury before he succeeded saving that child. This injury came from his Captain's gunshot. This injury made his leg lame for the rest of his life. This injury let Eddie to live inside feeling regret and guilty. Eddie died in his 83th birthday when he tried to save a little girl who got accident in the falling cart. It became his beginning to meet five people who will give him lessons in the Heaven. Those five people were The Blue Man, The Captain, Ruby, Marguerite, and Tala. They were people who influence Eddie's life consciously or unconsciously. Since Eddie died in his middle effort saving a child, he was curious whether he succeeded saving her or not. However, he still felt holding her hand. One of those five people helped him to reveal the answer. She was Tala, the last people Eddie met in Heaven. Tala revealed that Eddie saved the little girl in the falling cart accident, and the hand that pulled him into Heaven was her hand.

The research chooses *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel by Mitch Albom because it has a unique story between former life and afterlife. The novel becomes well-packaged by its flashback plots. This research focuses on the Heaven concept that is described in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel. As the most religions do, they have their own concepts of Heaven. The novel's author, Mitch Albom pours his concept out through Eddie as the main character in his *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. There are some reasons that make Heaven in the novel becomes interesting to be analyzed. First, Heaven's depiction in the novel destabilizes

the researcher's idea of Heaven. Second, Heaven in the novel does not show God's role in Eddie's journey towards Heaven. Third, Heaven's unique depiction such as; it appears as a journey in searching the life meaning, it emerges as a familiar place to Eddie. However, it remains that Heaven is the greatest God's gift.

Taking from the other side, Islam has also Heaven's depiction as poured in Holy Quran. There, Heaven is depicted as a place which is prepared to the righteous. Heaven is a place that will never be analogues with others. Heaven has its certain level to be owned by the chosen believers. Heaven has gorgeous view that cannot be compared with this whole world. Moreover, Heaven as the final abode provides an endless delight and bliss for its inhabitants. Both reviews above tell about Heaven in different way. However, they still have ideas that are quite similar with Islamic description of Heaven such as Eddie cannot feel sad and agony after he enters to the Heaven. Islamic perspective has the similar explanation as written in the Holy Qur'an; Surah Faathir verses 34-35 as follows:

And they will say: "Praise be to Allah, Who has removed from us (all) sorrow: for our Lord is indeed Oft-Forgiving Ready to appreciate (service): "Who has, out of His Bounty, settled us in a Home that will last: no toil nor sense of weariness shall touch us therein (Yusuf Ali, 1987: 217).

Thus, the researcher is attracted to find out the concept of the Heaven in the novel and the concept of Heaven based on Islamic perspective through its text. In Islamic perspective, there are many verses and *hadith* that are describing Heaven's

depiction in detail. However, this research uses related verses than can be found in the Holy Qur'an. It becomes important to relate both of texts since Holy Qur'an provides and answers everything. Holy Qur'an also asks human to learn and look for knowledge every time and everywhere. Heaven is an everlasting and wonderful place that will be given to kind and obedient people as their eternal live in the Hereafter. One of them is as explained in the Holy Qur'an, Surah Ali Imran, verses 133:

❖ وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا  
السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿١٣٣﴾

Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Garden whose width is that (of the whole) of the heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous- (Yusuf Ali, 1987: 29).

There are found several texts which have the similarities to each other whether in its theme, idea, or other elements. Even for certain texts, they can be influenced by their author personally. Hence, this research looks for the contrast between two texts through intertextuality. It means that it also aims to give another meaning of a certain text with the related texts. Related to these phenomena, Holy Qur'an already explains in the Surah Ali 'Imran verse 3:

نَزَّلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَأَنْزَلَ التَّوْرَةَ  
وَالْإِنْجِيلَ



It is He Who sent down to thee (step by step), in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; and He sent down the Law (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) before this, as a guide to mankind, and He sent down the criterion (of judgment between right and wrong) ( Yusuf Ali, 1987: 21).

Related to the phenomenon above, Heaven's idea is not only seen in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel but, it can also be found in other source, in this case verses in Holy Qur'an. Here, Islamic perspective is applied to limit the scope of study. Academically, relating between Al-Qur'an to novel has purpose to increase human's intend in knowledge. Al-Qur'an with all its completeness also teaches human to learn other sciences. As it is mentioned in Surah Al-Mujadalah, verses 11 which tells that Allah will raise their degree for those who want to learn and study. Therefore, this research aims to find out how the Heaven explained in the novel and how it is shown in the Holy Qur'an. Next, both of the text will be analyzed through intertextuality by Julia Kristeva. This research will find the contrast between the texts. Furthermore, this research tends to tell the readers the interpretation of Heaven's concept both in the novel and also Holy Qur'an.

## 1.2 Research Question

Based on background of study above, this research has one research question that is formed: How are the contrasts found in Heaven's concept depicted in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel and Islamic perspective?

## 1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the research question, the objective of study that the researcher wants to acquire: to explain the contrast in both of Heaven's concept depicted in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel and Islamic perspective.

## 1.4 Significances of Study

This research is expected to give contribution in developing the study of literature, especially for English Literature Department. This research also can be utilized both theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this research is expected to give contribution in developing the study of literature, especially for English Literature Department. Since this research analyzes novel through Islamic perspective, it is expected to be a work that stimulates another related research in academic field.

Practically, this research can be used practically by several sides. They are:

1. Students; this research can be used to help students in understanding Heaven in two sides. Firstly, as it explicitly explained in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Secondly, as it briefly explained in Holy Qur'an.

2. Future researchers; this research can be used to be reference for other and related researchers in the future.
3. Common people; this research can be used to be understood for all people who read this research. Thus, this research will be useful and attracts them to read or get the moral values through the novel. Furthermore, the researcher expects this research is able to give comprehension that people need to respect others idea.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

There are some graduating papers that have analyzed *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel. The first is a graduating paper entitled “Defining Eddie: Personality Trait Analysis in Mitch Albom’s *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*” written by Siti Marfungah from English Literature Department of State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta (2014). Her paper discussed Eddie’s personality using Personality trait theory by Costa and McCrae.

There was only one research question in Siti Mafungah’s paper. It was how can the character of Eddie be explained in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel? This research applied personality trait theory by Costa and McCrae through the big five dimensions; Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experiences, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness to understand the personality of Eddie. Siti Marfungah’s paper showed that it was agreeableness which dominates Eddie’s development. Eddie has altruism as the high intensity which shows his attitude for



helping others. Furthermore, Eddie has also other dimension of agreeableness includes: Trust, Compliance, Modesty, and Tender-Mindedness.

Besides that, Eddie also has characters with negative dimension. They are called Neuroticism; Anxiety, Angry Hostility, and Depression. But, they were rarely emerged. They only interpret the naturalness of Eddie as human being. Thus, Eddie was the main character who has good personality.

The second is a graduating paper entitled “Concept of Heaven as Reflected through The Narrator in Albom’s *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*” was written by Brian Kevin Pandu from English Letter Study Programme of Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta (2013). This research analyzed the concept of heaven through the narrator of the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Brian applied moral philosophical approach and used Catholic point of view about the concept of heaven as the theory. The result of Brian’s paper showed that the narrator’s description about heaven could bring the comprehension about the concept of heaven.

Another research was a thesis written by Maulana Mansyur from English Letter Department of State Islamic University Jakarta (2010) entitled “A Semiotic Analysis on the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*” This research applied semiotic theory by Charles Sanders Pierce. Maulana’s paper aimed to know the relationship and the meaning between sign, object, and the interpretation in the way Eddie toward the Heaven. The result of Mansyur’s paper is shown by explaining the meaning of the meeting between Eddie and those five people in Heaven.

Therefore, this research provides the research that is different with the previous researches. Since it has similarity in subject and object of research, the present research uses a popular novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. However, it focuses on the Heaven's concept that is depicted in the novel. Thus, this research analyzes the intertextuality of the concept of Heaven in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel through Islamic perspective by applying intertextuality theory by Julia Kristeva.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

This chapter provides the theory and approach that will be used to analyze the data. Theory becomes a framework that should be explained briefly. Hence, it consists of brief explanation about intertextuality as the main theory and Islamic research as the perspective approach.

### **1.6.1 Intertextuality**

Intertextuality is introduced by a French linguist, Julia Kristeva in 1960. Julia develops intertextuality concept as the rework of Bakhtinian concept of intertextuality. "Bakhtin held the point of view that text cannot be detached from socio-cultural textuality which is the backdrop in which a text created" (El, 2015: 2). According to Kristeva, intertextuality though surfaced as a poststructuralist concept, existed as a universal phenomenon that elucidates the communicative interconnections between text and the other and context (as cited in El, 2015: 2). Intertextuality attempts to find that a text may has relation with others; a text may provide related information to one another. Here, it shows that intertextuality can be

found in certain related texts. They can have similarities one to another, in this case is their intrinsic elements.

There are two relationships exist when reading a text. They are the horizontal axis (reader-author relation) and vertical axis (text and other texts). Horizontal axis takes place between the author and the reader. While, vertical axis denotes that the text communicates with a frontal and synchronic literary. Kristeva also considers text as permutation (several utterances may be taken from others: intersect and neutralize one another), practice and productivity (text's production may take a role as deconstructive or constructive), transposition (text will never be single, but plural, shattered, and capable of being tabulated, and ideologist (text will always influenced by its social and historical context) (as cited in El, 2015: 78).

“There is never a single or correct way to read a text, since every reader brings with him or her different expectations, interests, viewpoints and prior reading experiences. Each reader of this study is encouraged to read it in whatever order best suits his or her purpose” (Allen, 2000: 7). In reading a text, the interpretation can be elucidated and concluded by the readers since texts are static and the reader's interpretations are dynamic. Therefore, intertextuality assumes that the interconnections between texts that situates the meaning within text and through a communicative process that occurs between the text and readers.

Intertextuality denotes that no text stands on its own. According to Lemaster, intertextuality is the reference to or application of a literary, media, or social “text” within another literary, media, or social “text.” In literature, intertextuality is when a book refers to a second book by title, scene, character, or storyline, or when a book refers to a social “text” such as media, social, or cultural story.” (2012: 1). It means that a book may has similarities with others book. Intertextuality aims to find out the intact meaning of a certain topic. Commonly, the more the reader read, the more information they can get through the text. The texts may accomplish the meaning to each other.

### **1.6.2 Type of Intertextuality**

There are two major types of intertextuality. They are ekphrasis and iconotext. According to Mitchel, et al, ekphrasis is the verbal representation of visual representation (as cited in Shakib, 2013: 1). “Ekphrasis shows visual description in a verbal media such as a novel, poem, or other writings” (Shakib, 2013: 2). Hence, it can be found in the most literary works. The authors put the visual description that can be unlimitedly imagined to the readers through their writing. This research uses ekhphrasis as the type of intertextuality. Since it uses novel as the object, the data come from visual descriptions and there is no picture to be shown off.

### **1.6.3 Form of Intertextuality**

The form that is used in this research is other “text” in a book. According to Lemaster, it is a brief or prolonged reference to a media or social “text” in a literary text (2012: 1). Thus, its reference can be adopted from movie, song, or a well-known

social story. Even, the other text within a book is not a piece of part of literature. This research uses two texts. First, novel and second is Holy Qur'an translated by Yusuf Ali.

#### **1.6.4 Function of Intertextuality**

Comparison used to be function of intertextuality in this research. "Intertextuality involves an implicit comparison by putting two "texts" together" (Lemaster, 2012: 1). Comparison commonly results whether better or worst. However, comparison in intertextuality here aims to know the similarities and differences between the texts.

#### **1.6.5 Effect of Intertextuality**

There should be an effect emerged after a research is done. Intertextuality which is used appears an effect as re-interpretation of both texts. According to Lemaster, intertextuality can create a simultaneous re-reading of both of the primary book and its intertext. This involves a back- and-forth re-reading of each text based on what their similarities and differences reveal about one another (2012: 1). Thus, both of texts can stimulate the readers to interpret both of them.

As the additional, in this case, the researcher uses related verses of Quran as the instrument in seeing the object material based on the novel. Since Quran is the main sources in Islam, there are also found some related verses which can help to accomplish the observation. According to Muqim, Islamic perspective aims to explore research methodology in different branches of social sciences in the framework of Islamic values and goals (1994: 71). It means that the researcher uses

Islamic perspective as the supporting instrument to solve the problem in this research. Here, the source will be taken from related verses in Holy Qur'an.

According to Tamuri and Ismail, basically, the fundamental element in Islamic research is the research foundation which must be laid down on the two primary sources, the roots of all activities in Islam, i.e. the Qur'an and the Sunnah (2013: 2571). It is as applied that this research uses Qur'an as the instrument stands for the Islamic perspective. Denffer classifies Islamic research into two types, they are: Islamic research which is bounded by theme and scope of study and Islamic research which cannot be limited by area of study. Moreover, he also states that Islamic research embraces other fields such as education, politics, economy, social studies, arts and sciences (as cited in Tamuri and Ismail, 2013: 2571).

There are six principles that should be understood by Muslim as the framework in every aspect of their daily life, included:

- a. The unity of Allah SWT
- b. Unity of creation
- c. Unity of truth and knowledge
- d. Unity of life
- e. Unity of humanity
- f. The complementary nature of Revelation and Reason (as cited in Tamuri and Ismail, 2013: 2571).

The principles above assert that a research does not only contribute as scientific work and enrich the knowledge. A good research is expected to be a way

to admit Lord and his greatest creation. Additionally, Islamic perspective in this research is expected for having the significances such as; increasing human wisdom, recognizing Allah SWT as the Creator, learning something through Holy Quran and other sources, and sharing knowledge more to the others.

## **1.7 Method of Research**

This section explains the type of research, data source, data collection technique and data analysis technique.

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

The design of this research is descriptive qualitative method as the type of research. According to Creswell, qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (2009: 22). Here, it means the researcher will analyze based on the novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*'s text. This type of research used to explore the data. Thus, it is used to interpret and get the meaning as the result of analysis. This research analyzes the interconnection of Heaven as explained in the novel and as explained in the Islamic perspective through its text using intertextuality theory. In addition, this research uses library research since this research uses Heaven's depiction written in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel as its data source, thus the researcher does not observe the participants in the field or laboratory.

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

This research uses a novel entitled *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom as the data source. The main data is Heaven's depiction within the novel. The data can be taken from words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs. The second data comes from related verses in the Holy Qur'an translation. The supporting data come from referential books, articles, journals, and websites that relate with the topic. They are be used as additional sources that help the researcher to understand the topic.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

In order to collect the data, the researcher uses close reading as data collection technique. The researcher reads through *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel for knowing the object of this research. There are several steps in processing data collection technique as follows:

- a. First, understanding the content of the book by close reading.
- b. Second, selecting the main data. Here, the researcher finds Heaven's description written in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel.
- c. Third, looking for verses in Holy Qur'an that are related with the data.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

This research uses several steps on analyzing. The first step is providing the main data; they come from the Heaven's depiction written in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel. The second step is briefly explaining Heaven as seen in the



novel. The third step is serving and explaining related verses found in Holy Qur'an. The next step is looking for the contrast through their texts by considering their own contexts.

### **1.8 Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter consists of general introduction including background of study, research question, objective of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, methods of study (type of research, data source, data collection technique, and data analysis technique) and paper organization. The second chapter provides the data of the research object. The third chapter contains the discussion of the research. And the last chapter is conclusion that provides the result of the analysis and suggestion.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Based on the research question and discussion, the researcher concludes that by applying intertextuality, the contrasts of Heaven's concept depicted in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel and Islamic perspective can be revealed. By using ekphrasis as the type of intertextuality, the researcher can find the visual description of Heaven as the needed text to be analyzed. Related to comparison as the function of the intertextuality in this research, the discussion can find the differences and the similarities of Heaven's concept depicted both in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and related Quran verses.

Furthermore, by knowing the similarities and differences, it can be concluded that there is contrast between *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and Islamic perspective in their intrinsic elements. Inside this research, it is found through the Heaven's concept depicted in both of texts; inside the novel and Holy Qur'an. The relation between both of texts can be seen from: Heaven as their theme, their belief of the existence of death, life after death, and Heaven, and some of Heaven's depiction which similarly drawn through the texts.

Considering that this research uses two texts with different perspectives, the contrast between the Heaven's concept depicted in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel and related verses in the Holy Qur'an can be elucidated by the researcher as the texts reader. In short, the revealed contrast deals with researcher's

interpretation. The similarities and differences found in both of texts aim to give comprehension about Heaven's concept whether in the novel and Holy Qur'an to the readers. Moreover, the differences and similarities found in both of texts signify that everyone has their own idea of Heaven. It may be caused by different social, historical, cultural, and religious view. Therefore, they all should be respected.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is such a recommended novel to be read or analyzed. Mitch Albom delivers moral values and lessons through his unadorned language style. Henceforth, it is suggested for the next researcher that interests to look for another novel that tells about Heaven. Then, both of them can be compared using comparative literature or other relevant theory.

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APPENDIX  
CURRICULUM VITAE



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