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Destiny Vs Personal Choices in John Green's The Fault in Our Stars 2012

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my dear mother, for her love, support, and inspiration.

To Abd El Madjid Azzi and Leila Lazhari, my beloved parents, for their unending love, prayers, and sacrifices. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for your noble values, valuable advice, and unwavering support.

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Abstract

This dissertation is an investigation of destiny and life choices with reference to Hazel and Augustus in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*. This research investigates how the two main characters conceive life and destiny choices. The aim of this study is to analyze the way destiny is presented in the novel, how decisions are manifested by destiny, and the impact of their personal decisions on life main choices. The study adopts a qualitative method using psychoanalytic theories in literary criticism, in order to analyze the two main characters. The study shows that Hazel manifests a rejection of her destiny through her behaviors and Augustus too shows a refusal of his destiny. The way he acts gives the impression that he will not be doomed to death, living his life fully.

Key Words:Destiny,Free Will,Psychoanalysis,Hazel Grace.

List of Acronyms

(AIA) An Imperial Affliction

(TFIOS) The Fault in Our Stars

Table of Content

DEDICATION.....	I
ACKNOWLEDEMENTS.....	II
Abstract.....	III
List of Acronyms	IV
Table of Content.....	V
General Introduction	I

Chapter One: Historical Overview and Theoretical Framework

1.1 Introduction	9
1.2 Historical Overview of The Novel:.....	9
1.2.1 Background of the Study	Erreur ! Signet non défini.
1.2.2 The Novel and the Movie:.....	10
1.3 Theoretical Framework	10
1.3.1 Brief Overview of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytical Criticism.....	11
1.3.2 Psychological View to the Novel	12
1.4 The Plot Summary:	14
1.5 Conclusion:.....	16

Chapter Two: Destiny Choices Vs Personal Choices in the Novel

2.1 Introduction:	19
2.2 The Psychological Dimension of Hazel:	19
2.3 Destiny Vs Free Will:	21

2.3.1 Comparison between Fate and Free Will:	21
2.3.2 Conceptual Analysis of Fate.....	24
2.3.2.1 The Importance of the Crossed Star:.....	29
2.3.3 Conceptual Analysis of Free Will	31
2.4 Conceptual Analyses within Sides of Fate:	35
2.4.1 Death as a predetermined side of fate:.....	35
2.4.2 Cancer and suffering as predetermined side of fate:.....	39
2.5 Conclusion:	44
General Conclusion.....	45
Works Cited.....	48
ملخص.....	53

General Introduction

John Green is a New York Times bestselling and an award winning author. He won many prizes including: The Edgar Award, Printz Honor, and the Printz Medal; in addition to, being a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize twice. He wrote *Looking for Alaska* (2005), *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Paper Towns* (2008), *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012), and *Will Grayson* (2010) in collaboration with David Levithan. Along with his brother Hank, John is considered as one half of the Vlogbrothers in what is regarded as one of the most famous online video projects worldwide. They have more than three million subscribers on their channel. John currently lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his family members (wife and son).

John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* is an enthralling twenty-first century novel which contains an unusual love story. This novel takes the love story of two young teenagers in a different life journey; however, the novel portrays the facts and realities of actual cancer patients. Therefore, the writer shed light on the great combination between these young couples, their battle, sufferance, and their difficult medical conditions which were drawn by destiny. The novel's narrator and 16 year old protagonist, an astute and remarkably conscientious girl Hazel Grace who was diagnosed at age thirteen with a terminal form of thyroid cancer that has since spread to her lungs.

Unfortunately, she keeps most people at a distance, knowing her death will ultimately hurt them, until she falls in love with Augustus Waters a seventeen-year-old Augustus Waters, an ex-basketball player, as well as an amputee, therefore; decides to live her life as she wants based on her personal will, particularly; they met in a support group for patients with cancer in a church. It follows their actual view of life and faith in accordance with their lifetime experiences, however short those might be.

The novel follows the journey of a complicated relationship between Hazel and Augustus. Also, Green, the writer, attempts to turn down the stereotype that fighting the fatal disease of cancer which is an epic impressive deed. While the author shed light on the idea

that the title the fault is not in the stars because it is not the fault that some bad things are unavoidable. Hazel and Augustus didn't do anything to cause cancer and they can't avoid it .Even though they know they can't change their health case .Though,they know they can't change that their medical case was controlled by fate and predetermined by destiny but they keep fighting their cancer battle and neither of them give up and they still make decisions.

Finally the critic Trevor Stammers,he concludes his analysis by saying that parental love plays a huge role in being positive and coping with the painful suffering of illness as in Hazel's later case even though they both go to her bedroom and her father tells her 'You're not a grenade, nor are we. Thinking of your death makes us sad, my dear, but you are not a grenade. You are amazing[...] The joy you bring to us is far greater than the sadness we feel about your illness, so the life-affirming theme has been strong and unwavering parental love.

Through the novel,the researcher wants to analyze how the dichotomy of destiny and personal decision were taken and to identify the puzzle either our life decisions are taken from our personal choices or it is decided by our fate the struggle between fate and self choices in shaping our lives.So, based on that problem,this research is undertaken.

Research Questions

1. How does John Green depict Hazel Grace's destiny and life choices?
- 2.To what extent the main characters Hazel and Grace present choices of fate and free will in The Fault in Our Stars. How have these central issues influenced their lives and psychological state ?
3. How does the author define distinct themes like suffering, death, and love in terms of controlling the fate of the main protagonists?

Aims and Objectives of the Research

The primary goal of this research is to investigate the protagonists' choices and to depict the use of the dichotomy between destiny choices and free will through the novel's

characters. Another major goal is to show how the protagonist, Hazel Grace, rejected cancer and death as predetermined aspects of her fate by focusing on her psychological state. Furthermore, the researcher aims to analyze the characters' personalities using psychoanalytic criticism to explain the fact beyond their choice, whether they are fated or free-willed individuals.

Literature Review

In this research, there are some remarkable works which discussed same circle of study themes related to the novel using psychological and psychoanalytical studies.

For instance, the Academic research "Psychological Relationship in The Fault in Our Stars Novel: An Analysis of Social Exchange" (2017) was conducted by Nurhuda Fithroni, the researcher examined and depicted how the characters' social interactions are achieved. More specifically, the author sheds light on the important relationships between Hazel and Augustus by employing a psychological approach in the social exchange theory. Also, the writer identified the underlying factors of the main character's relationship, such as positive qualities, attractiveness, and liking. It portrayed the main characters' psycho as sometimes depressed, sometimes optimistic, but they recognized the harsh reality of cancer and death, especially since it was beyond their control, so clearly the novel shows how destiny can steal young adults' dreams, aspirations, and ambitions.

Another important example, the researcher Dinar Utami Ariyati who has analyzed the main character through her thesis "Hazel Grace Lancaster's Struggles to create her Essence in the fault in our stars" (2015) where she shed light on the protagonist's analysis According to her treatments, social relationships, and reactions toward her coping with cancer, the refusal of life, the deep depression, the refusal also for the cancer disease because she considered herself controlled by destiny; she has no power over her disease, and when Augustus' death came, she couldn't do anything because it is beyond her control.

At first, Hazel was extremely depressed because she knew the truth about cancer; for example, she thought she was a grenade that would hurt her family and friends, but later on, the researcher highlighted the importance of the main character on finding her essence, where eventually Hazel could extract a positive side from cancer and death when Augustus died, so she appreciated the value of life, love, and the free will.

Another researcher who has done a research on Green's novel named Odhran O'Donoghue. In his article (Penguin 2012), he has analyzed the reason beyond writing this fictional work by the author John Green, more specifically; he analyzed the characters personalities mainly focusing on their attitudes and behaviors because he explained that Hazel, the protagonist, a good character "Hazel, Green has created a warm, engaging, and intelligent narrator. Her wry observations [...] or her favorite contestant on America's Next Top Model, are always insightful, and often very funny" (O'Donoghue 582). Therefore, he analyzed the psyche of the main characters based on their attitudes through psychoanalytical approach. He concluded, that the novel "The Fault in Our Stars" is marketed as a love story, but while Hazel and Augustus' journey is undeniably emotional, it's Hazel et al's sharp insights and hilariously dark quips that are truly at the core of this story. So aesthetically, "Green skillfully shifts focus away from the illness firmly back to where it should be" (O'Donoghue 582).

Additionally, Knowing that the Hollywood Reporter's film Critic Justin Lowe criticized the novel under the title "The Fault in Our Stars' Review: What the Critics Are Saying" he emphasized on the creation of John Green of believable two young characters filled with humor and intelligence in which he offers to Hazel the opportunity to mold all of her hope and frustration into a fully three-dimensional and emotional experience..

The Fault in Our Stars Novel got a great impact internationally; therefore, many countries produced a movie based on the novel. The first American movie was directed by

Josh Boone and there was a Hindi version of "The Fault in Our Stars." Directed by Mukesh Chhabra entitled "Kizie Aur Manny", because the idea of a book being made into a movie is as well as seeing the characters come to life and giving the imagination a sense of reality, and more importantly, the movie adaptations from the books sometimes bring a new perspective. This gives the audience a new look to be more attracted especially as the film had a great impact.

Therefore, after realizing all the previous works about the themes and the characters, the researcher is investigating the impact of using the dichotomy of destiny and life choices in the character's lives in order to realize the facts beyond human existence whether it is controlled by fate or by their free will. So, the researcher aims to discuss the character's personalities and psychological behaviors through Freudian framework.

Statement of The Problem

The researcher focuses on the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* in terms of how was the novel's use of destiny portrayed, and how Hazel and Augustus' personal choices impacted their lives, leading them to cope with cancer and appreciate the moment?

Research Problem

The proposed research investigates how is fate and free will decisions were presented through the main characters by analyzing their deeds and behaviors; focusing primarily on their psychological states. Also, the study attempts to portray how fate impacted on their lives and to what extent they can exercise their free will.

Methodology

This research is conducted using a qualitative approach, an analytical method, and a descriptive reading because the researcher described, analyzed, and interpreted the novel and the characters qualitatively using psychoanalytic criticism in order to analyze the characters' decision making process. To illustrate the presence of fate in their lives and how it changed

their destinations, as well as to shed light on how Augustus handled the responsibility of his free will.

This study is conducted as a textual analysis by collecting and analyzing data and then presenting the results of the analysis. Furthermore, the data is divided into two sections. First, the researcher relies on critical analysis of the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* as a primary source. Second, the researcher relies on articles, books, websites, and other resources related to the novel, characters, main theme, psychology, psychoanalytic criticism, existentialism.

Structure of the Dissertation

The current research is divided into two main chapters. The first chapter is primarily concerned with explaining the theoretical foundation and historical context for this research. The first part is about Freud's psychoanalytic theory, psychoanalytic criticism, and psychology, whereas the second part is about the historical background of the novel. Furthermore, the second chapter represents the study's central theme. It depicts choices and decisions made by the novel's main protagonists, whether predetermined by fate or free will, by investigating Hazel's psychological dimension and psychoanalysis as a literary theory; thus, the second chapter will be devoted to analyzing fate and free will choices in the main characters lives.

Chapter One:
Historical Overview and Theoretical
Framework

1.1 Introduction

The Fault in Our Stars novel contained an unusual love story about two cancer patients who fall in love due to a great coincidence by fate. The researcher aims to investigate the fate coincidence which led Hazel to meet Augustus; however, she decided to love him by her personal desire. This chapter delves into the historical context and the theoretical framework of The Fault in Our Stars novel using psychoanalytic criticism and psychological studies to analyze the characters' thoughts, behaviors, attitudes, morals.

1.2 Historical Overview of The Novel

1.2.1 Background of The Study

John Green is an American author who has written non-fiction novels for young adults whose work has been praised by reviewers for its bright but turbulent characters and for its treatment of challenging themes. While he was a student in a hospital, he acquired a thoughtful and sensational experience where he felt all the feelings of sadness, loss, illness, hope.

John Green was born on August 24, 1977, in Indianapolis, Indiana. He spent the formative years of his youth primarily in the southern United States. While an adolescent, Green attended Indian Springs boarding school outside of Birmingham, Alabama, and then he went on to study at Kenyon College, where he double-majored in English and Religious Studies. Upon graduating from Kenyon College Green initially intended to become Episcopalian Minister. Following that path, he enrolled at the University Of Chicago Divinity School. Before starting his Episcopalian studies at the university, Green served as a student chaplain at a local children's hospital, where he worked with terminally ill youth. This experience proved pivotal in helping him decide to end his pursuit of the ministry and focus his ambitions on becoming a fiction writer instead (Sujiwa 40).

Also, John Green is a recent popular name in the American young adult fiction. He has published numerous educational videos online. *The Fault in Our Stars* is considered to be his outstanding. Moreover, the novel was a result of both Green's experience working with terminally ill kids and his encounters with his online fans, more specifically; he dedicated his work to his friend Esther Earl, who died of thyroid cancer in 2010 because he drew his imagination and inspiration after working as a chaplain student in a children's hospital (Damayanti 6).

The researcher is interested in analyzing the novel because, first and foremost, the novel is based on a true story about a human being in a difficult situation (hard sick), and how they try to survive by forming life relationships with others. The second is that this is John Green's sixth novel, and it is his best-selling work in America. The third and most important point is that the novel's title is an excerpt from Shakespeare's saying, which reveals important messages about fate, stars, and free will choice (Oktaviani 1).

1.2.2 The Novel and the Movie

The story surrounds the idea that love can defy all odds. It's clear that Hazel and Augustus can still love each other despite knowing their fate because they recognize that they have no control over their current situations. The book takes us through the feelings of love and the pain it can cause as well. Hazel, knowing her illness is fatal, is dismissive of falling for Gus because she knows it will only leave him hurting in the end. But Gus's wise words let us know that he is proud that he won her love in his life.

John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* was released in 2012. It was the best-selling novel of 2012. This novel is about Hazel Grace, a teen girl with terminal lung cancer. Unlike other kids, she didn't have much to aim for until she met Augustus Waters, who changed her perspective on life. A sudden twist of fate takes them on a trip to Amsterdam and the journey changes everything for them (Damayanti 19). John Green does an excellent job of portraying

them as genuine teenagers. They are brought to life by their words, actions, and emotions because the novel has been reproduced for big screen that was released in June 2014, following its huge success. The film closely follows the book's plot. Some of the book's strongest passages were faithfully portrayed in the film, exactly as the reader had envisioned. Young love is captured in a subtle but accurate way in both the novel and the film. Neither character understands what it's like to be in love for the first time, but they accept all of the emotions that come with it. The novel does a good job of expressing this through words and imagery, whereas the movie can depict their emotions directly through facial expressions and movements. Eventually, the reader is left pondering what it means to appreciate the value of life, love, individual freedom at the conclusion of the book and film.

1.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this research aims to provide the research with a clear understanding of Freud's psychological analysis in order to analyze the decisions made by the main characters. This section will be divided into two sections. The first will provide an overview of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic criticism. The second is a psychological analysis of the novel.

1.3.1 Brief Overview of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytical Criticism

The term "psychoanalysis" has three distinct meanings. To begin, it is defined as a school of psychology that emphasizes psychic determinism and dynamics, as well as the importance of childhood experiences in shaping one's adult personality and behavior. Second, psychoanalysis is defined as a specialized method of studying unconscious mental activities. Finally, psychoanalysis is defined as a therapeutic method for investigating and treating mental disorders, particularly neurotic disorders (Rajeevan 2011). Likewise, psychoanalysis provides insight into the psyches of the characters in a given literary work, allowing us to find interpretations of their behavioral attitudes, which are usually the result of other hidden

factors; as an example, the behaviors and decisions of Hazel Grace proved the type of her personality means through psychoanalysis and psychology the truths can be extracted.

Sigmund Freud is considered the father of psychology and he created psychoanalysis (1856-1939). First of all, Sigmund Freud coined the term psychoanalysis in 1896. Freud helped to advance a dynamic type of psychology known as “psychoanalysis”, which is a technique for analyzing or treating neuroses. It examines literature from a psychological perspective.

A psychoanalyst reads a text and theorizes that it is a manifestation of what is in the author's mind, so each psychoanalyst analyzes each character in the text and explains why these characters made this particular decision. As in the novel, when the researcher is going to analyze why a particular decision was taken and based on what principles? Furthermore, a psychoanalytic evaluation of a text would be incomplete unless it addressed the reader's psychological impact. Also, because the psychoanalysis school of criticism conducts evidence-based research, it helps the reader better understand the story and events because it tries to figure out what the characters and authors were really thinking about.

“We noticed that literary criticism has used psychoanalysis theory to interpret literature and literature has also attempted to exploit and use psychoanalysis” (Mahroof 41). So, we deduce that the use of psychoanalysis is necessary to analyze, describe and interpret the literary work; however, psychological criticism considers literature to be a fictitious expression of the author's mental state and personality structure. Lastly, psychological literary criticism may focus on the author's psychology or a particularly intriguing character in a particular work.

1.3.2 Psychological View to the Novel

“John Green seems to choose the field of psychology in order to conduct the event of his novel and to analyze the protagonists who had similar destinations in life such as in the

case of both: Hazel and Augustus who particularly suffered from cancer .Also,it is clearly observed that Green relies on the interpersonal theory to depict the relationship between Hazel and Augustus. This theory deals with the individuals who have similar situations and trends in life. That is, both of Hazel and Augustus suffer from cancer and are interested in literature” (Fithroni 9).Indeed, Hazel and Augustus had similar sides and that was a strong reason to get attached to eachother,in a way that they experienced deep emotions.

According to Freud, the literary work is the author's dream or imagination.While, psychoanalytic critics argue that by employing Freud's psychoanalytic procedures created for dream therapy, we might "unlock" the secret meanings contained within the story and held in symbols.As well as, when Hazel dreamt of death because she felt the pain of cancer and she thought she died,she got up terrified that explains why she was scared ;it is because of her fear from death and not being alive again.Only then can we arrive at a correct interpretation of the text, as was the case while evaluating the literary work *The Fault in Our Stars* because the author intended to present this literary work solely to demonstrate his point of view also, after serving as a student chaplain in a children's hospital, author John Green was inspired to write the novel, which is dedicated to his friend Esther Earl, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 12 and died at the age of 16 in 2010 also in explaining to people that cancer patients also do have other important details to live in their lives not just being identified as a cancer patients and this is truly harsh for them.

The correspondent highlighted on the writer's main focus in order to depict the hardship of cancer patients in living this life as they were required to handle the physical and emotional side.He added:

They aren't entirely defined by their illness or by their disability. A lot of times I think that, from the outside, maybe we imagine sick people as being defined by their illness or as being simply, merely sick ,Particularly people who are dying.

My experience has always been, that the people who are chronically ill are also many other things. They're capable of love and they have all the same desires as other people. Their lives are every bit as rich and complex and important and meaningful as any others. (Acuna)

According to Freud, the dream represents a veiled wish and all of our current desires began in some form during childhood. We yearned to be both sensually and emotionally satisfied as children, and the writer is already aware of the suffering that extends beyond children. This led John Green to care more about cancer patients because he recognized that cancer patients suffer physically and emotionally, and that we should care for them. This is why John Green emphasized the importance of conducting research on cancer patients, especially those close to them by saying the following: "It was very important to me to talk to a lot of people who were living with cancer or who had children, other family members, die of cancer," "I also talked to a lot of oncologists and I read a lot about the disease. I read a lot of memoirs, textbooks about the disease so that I could try to understand it." (Acuna)

Green eventually decided to write the book because of the disease. As a result, the literary work must be approached as if it were a dream, with psychoanalytic techniques applied to the text to uncover the author's underlying intentions, suppressed wants, and wishes. Furthermore, the dream analyst, like the psychoanalyst critic, believes that any author's story is a dream.

1.4 The Plot Summary

The story opens up with the introduction of a seventeen-year-old girl Hazel Grace Lancaster, who attends in a cancer patients' group. The narrative structure of this novel takes an unexpected turn when Lancaster becomes interested in "Augustus" who is not sick and comes to support his friend Isaac, who has one eye removed. The chemistry between these two reaches another level, when Augustus after the meeting, breaks the silence by saying to

Hazel that she resembles Natalie Portman in *V for Vendetta*. Then, he invites her to his house to hang out and watch the movie as well as they share their cancer experience, and Hazel talks about her situation as well. Knowing that he was diagnosed with cancer too but now he is good. Moreover, they made a deal to read their favorite novels to one another: *The Price of Dawn* and *An Imperial Affliction* (Sujiwa 38).

So, Hazel starts first with her novel (*An Imperial Fiction*). It's about a girl who's also diagnosed with cancer, named Anna – and she points out that Anna's life-journey reminds her of everything she is going through, August surprises Hazel by revealing that he is touch with Van Houten's assistant, Lidewij; and they may be able to pass a few questions to the author. Therefore, Hazel was interested about what will happen to Anna's mother after her daughter's death. Hazel figures out that if Anna's parents are okay, she will have a peace of mind, in such case. Van Houten agrees to unravel Hazel's mysteries but only in person, and invites her to Amsterdam (Sujiwa 38).

Although she is happy and feels really great with Augustus, she is uncertain about their joint future, as a couple due to her illness. She says that one way or the other; he'll end up hurt, and compares her situation to a grenade, according to her difficult medical state which affected her thinking and personality, this has led her to call herself a "grenade" which means that just like a real bomb it will explode (when she dies) at any moment leaving a number of injured people behind. In the end, you become a sad and pessimistic person who sees nothing positive in the future but death and prefer solitude to being around other people.

At the heat of the moment, Hazel suffers another "lung" attack, and she has to be hospitalized and the body reacted, fiercely. Upon her discharge from the hospital, finds out that Augustus never left the waiting room and this made her feeling comfortably. When Augustus showed her the last letter by Van Houten, Hazel is now firm in her decision to visit

Amsterdam. However, not everyone is happy with this idea, and doctors recommend her to stay in place, because her "condition" is subject to change, and she should not travel.

Dr. Maria supports Hazel's liveness and choice "I believe the universe wants to be noticed. I think the universe is improbably biased toward consciousness, that it rewards intelligence in part because the universe enjoys its elegance being observed. And who am I, living in the middle of history, to tell the universe that it-or my observation of it-is temporary?"(Green 36). But unfortunately they figured out that Van Houten is just drunkard so left the house directly. Another disappointed twist when Augustus revealed that the cancer has returned while Hazel is trying to support him that he will be always special to her,therefore; Hazel starts to call him Gus and expresses her endless love towards him but Augustus health retrogrades as fastly so he arranged a pre-funeral just for Isaac and Hazel to speak about their experiences with him.

When he died,Hazel was so sad but what shocked her is the arrival of Van Houten at the funeral. Van Houten says to Hazel that they've been exchanging letters with Augustus, ever since they two met, and he demanded him to attend his funeral to see Hazel (Sujiwa 39).

A few days after Augustus' burial, Hazel once more bumps into Van Houten. He abstractly reveals Anna's fate, and the actual meaning of the novel – which is to “bury the hatchet” with death, not to oppose it.Hazel is not that interested in it and finds out about the sequel of “An Imperial Affliction” that Augustus has been writing in her honor.

1.5 Conclusion

In this research, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory can be applied to study the decision-making process in Hazel and Augustus' lives; for example, the unpredictability of Hazel's cancer, Isaac's sudden blindness, and Augustus' death shows how fate has power over the characters' ailments.Consequently,in this chapter the researcher shed light on the historical background of the novel and the necessary studies to undertake a psychoanalytical

study on the character and to recognize the importance of psychoanalytic criticism in analyzing the characters of the novel. The next chapter investigates the decisions taken by the protagonists as well as to analyze the way destiny and personal decisions were practiced.

**Chapter Two: Destiny Choices Vs Personal
Choices in the Novel**

2.1 Introduction

In the novel, John Green portrayed his fictional characters as if they were real people in order to address specific messages that went beyond their free or controlled decisions. Additionally, this is defended that “psychoanalysis aims at analyzing literary presentations as illustrations of real-life issues” (Tyson 2006). Therefore, this chapter investigates the truth about the human existence. As a result, the protagonists' psychological behaviors are analyzed using psychoanalytic criticism to depict destiny control and free choices in the characters' decision making process, which shapes their destinations. Most importantly, to look into the fate factors that had an impact on Hazel's psychological state and her life too.

2.2 The Psychological Dimension of Hazel

In fact, the novel's protagonists were psychologically related to one another because they shared many similarities, such as aspirations, interests, and health status, they are also dream seekers because they try to influence each other in the way they think and interpret the world around them, however; they had different qualities of positivity. Hazel's decision to face the real world is a brave step for a cancer patient survivor. Also, Augustus' encouragement for Hazel is a turning point in both of their lives because of their mentalities because Hazel is thoughtful and open-minded. She has conversations with Augustus and discusses her opinions with him, whereas Augustus is literate and a good listener, which is the reason why the two fell in love with each other. Furthermore, Hazel and Augustus are interdependent characters who accept their faults and flaws. Despite having cancer in their bodies, they both enjoy the feelings of pleasure, satisfaction, and love in their relationship.

Hazel's psychological attitudes, moodiness, and behaviors in *The Fault in Our Stars* had a negative impact on her desire to survive or even live. Because she spends the majority of her days in hospitals or at home sick, Hazel was deprived of the normalcy, childhood, and

maturity that fate had sadly controlled. Hazel describes her condition and the difficulty she has breathing without her oxygen tank and tubes:

The cylindrical green tank only weighed a few pounds, and I had this little steel cart to wheel it around behind me. It delivered two liters of oxygen to me each minute through a cannula, a transparent tube that split just beneath my neck, wrapped behind my ears, and then reunited in my nostrils. The contraption was necessary because my lungs sucked at being lungs (Green 8).

As can be seen, Hazel's health condition has forced her to be different among teenagers. She spends the majority of her time at home reading books, isolating herself from others, and losing touch with old friends.

She is embarrassed to carry an oxygen tank and tubes everywhere she goes because of the awkwardness of her disease, especially when a little girl asks: “‘What’s on your nose?’ And I said, ‘Um, it’s called a 13 cannula. These tubes give me oxygen and help me breathe’. Her mother swooped in and said, “‘Jakie” disapprovingly, but I said, ‘No it’s okay’” (Green 32).

Although Hazel has survived her near-death experience, she is aware that her life will not be long. Hazel is required to take medications on a regular basis and to carry an oxygen tank with tubes tangled around her face in order to breathe properly due to her health condition. This medical equipment that she carries with her everywhere makes her feel embarrassed and uneasy, especially around strangers. After being diagnosed with cancer at a young age, Hazel's life begins to revolve primarily around two main concepts: death and cancer, as she blames fate for putting her in this deadly circle. Unfortunately, she begins to be isolated, preferring to stay at home and read books. Furthermore, because Hazel's condition is hopeless and her death's potential is greater than that of other people, she begins to believe that the

only way to avoid hurting the people she admires after she dies is to avoid any emotional attachments, relationships, or friendships.

“You don’t get to choose if you get hurt in this world, old man, but you do have some say in who hurts you. I like my choices. I hope she likes hers.” (Green 313). Having a choice, he believes, can make a difference in all aspects. As well as, you choose who you surround yourself with and whether or not you give them the ability to hurt you. This world will hurt you in some way, but you have the power to prevent or allow it.

Finally, Hazel's character was clearly influenced negatively by her disease, which shaped her pessimistic outlook on life. As a result, her psychological aspect influenced her thoughts and personality. More specifically, she said: “Anyway, I really did like being alone” (Green 33). According to this quote, her cancer has caused her to change her perspective on life and accept living in isolation from the rest of the world. Despite her parents' efforts to make her feel better by pushing her to be more social, she was obstinate and ensured that she had nothing to live for.

2.3 Destiny Vs Free Will

2.3.1 Comparison Between Fate and Free Will

Hazel and Gus had a wonderful time in Amsterdam, especially when they dined at Oranje, a Dutch restaurant. According to the waiter who made a remark about the stars "we've bottled all of the stars tonight" it is clearly related to the title of the novel. "In the title, the stars refer to their fate, but in Amsterdam, the stars have been bottled, suggesting that their fate has been subdued at least for the moment (qtd. Deeb 120).

Augustus receives a letter from Van Houten, the title of which is derived from Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, in which the nobleman Cassius says to Brutus, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, / But in ourselves, that we are underlings" (Green 111). This remark has a lot of meaning because it relates to the fates, lives, and decision-making processes of the two

major characters, Hazel and Augustus, who have both been diagnosed with cancer. It means that our troubles are caused by ourselves, not by the stars, fate, destiny, or a greater power. Additionally, Julius Caesar presents a number of issues regarding the role of fate in life versus the capacity for free will. Cassius refuses to accept Caesar's ascendancy and considers faith in fate to be a type of passivity or cowardice. He says to Brutus: "Men at sometime were masters of their fates. (Julius Caesar, Act I Scene II, L.140-142).

Cassius calls for a return to a nobler, self-possessed way of life, blaming his and Brutus's submissive behavior on their unwillingness to exert themselves rather than on a predetermined plan. Caesar declares: "It seems to me most strange that men should fear, seeing that death, a necessary end, / Will come when it will come" (II.ii35-37). In other words, Caesar understands that certain events are beyond human control, and that crouching in fear of them like to be paralyzed because death was a clear sign for fate control when it comes, it occurs definitely. While the polarity of freedom and destiny is fundamental, its terms may come into conflict. This occurs in the realm of existence which culminates in death. When facing death as a final horizon, we are threatened with the anxiety of having to die. The confrontation with death may be called fate. Death would be the absolute threat of nonbeing, while fate would be its relative manifestation. They have different cancer conditions and have to face impending death on a daily basis and this was clear when he was asked about his choice to die, because he recognizes that he has no control over death when it comes.

Also, another side for proving the free will of the characters is when Hazel decides to love Augustus based on her personal decision. Indeed, if both the physiological and the safety demands are met, love, affection, and a sense of belonging will emerge. When Hazel and Augustus express their love, it is an indication that the novel's deeper message includes the desire for love. Hazel's physiological and safety needs, which are met admirably by her

parents and Augustus, become a prerequisite for her love, affection, and sense of belonging to arise naturally (Maslow).

Unfortunately, fate, which had brought them together in the beginning, has now separated them because Augustus has died. Despite that loving Relationships are free will decisions as seen in this quote from the novel when Augustus said:

I'am in love with you,and I'am not in the business of denying me the simple pleasure of saying true things.I'am in love with you,and I know that love is just a shout into the void,and that oblivion is inevitable,and that we're all doomed and that there will come a day when all our labor has been returned to dust,and I know the sun will swallow the only earth we'll ever have,and I am in love with you(Green153).

To mean, Augustus requests that Hazel read aloud a poem from Ginsburg's Howl, which she is reading for class, but she instead chooses to recite a poem from memory. Augustus tells Hazel he loves her when she is finished. He claims to understand that oblivion is unavoidable, that the sun will one day devour the earth, and that he loves her.We deduce that couples and love relationships exercise the free will as in the situation of Hazel and Augustus who fall in love.However, Hazel and Gus carry out a relationship to envisage the world together; their bond, as time goes on, is both impressive and healthy in a rather unhealthy world. Many of the adolescent characters in TFIOS are stagnated developmentally due to their experiences with cancer that makes a complicated passage into adulthood. Augustus, Hazel, and Isaac fight to keep cancer from defining who they are. They try to prevent it from consuming not only their time, but also all their veryessence. As an example, "I'm Hazel, I'd say when they'd get to me. Sixteen Thyroid originally but with an impressive and long-settled satellite colony in my lungs" (Green5).Consequently, certain types of loving relationships are freely entered into, but only certain types of loving relationships, such as

loving relationships between spouses or friends which appear to require an element of Self-Freedom because people in such relationships exercise free will.

“To say that we have to free will is to say that some of our actions are up to us; they are under our control”(No Author);therefore, we are only responsible for actions which we freely perform. Also,"If you find out that someone’s action was not done of their own free will, then it would be odd to blame them for their action"(No Author);therefore,if someone's action is not free,then she/he is not responsible for that action;even though, we are all responsible for at least some of our actions,means that at least some of our actions are free.More specifically,Augustus in chapter 10 says that he's hungry and leaves the flight gate to get breakfast, but he doesn't return for a long time. He claims that the line was long, and they discuss how certain foods are stuck in the category of breakfast foods. Augustus eventually admits that the food line was short. He didn't want to sit in the gate area with everyone staring at them. It enrages him, and he doesn't want to be angry today, so he expresses his free will by doing it directly and accepting responsibility.

2.3.2 Conceptual Analysis of Fate

Many questions have been asked about what makes us distinct as individuals for the majority of man's existence.What part does it play in our personalities, lives, relationships,and the psychoanalytic processBollas uses the concept of "The Human Idiom"to investigate and demonstrate how we function (Bollas2019).

The article which investigates fate, chance, time, and destiny in therapy.It is proposed that, like literature, therapy serves as a stage for the unfolding of narrative fate. The past seeps into the present in a therapeutic narrative, allowing fate to be determined by chance. In relation to the past, the future is seen "through a glass darkly." Change emerges from life as something else, in a person's own narrative time, rather than as the result of a therapeutic technology. The discussion includes examples from therapy (Larner).

Therefore, according to our novel, the issue of fate is portrayed, and as research suggests, the opening of fate to chance led Hazel to experience a new phase and, most importantly, the chance of love, and as a result, she enhanced her personal perspective in life. However, because she was always thinking about death, the future appeared to be a dark glass.

In John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars*, fate plays a significant role in affecting and behaving the characters lives as well as the plot of the story. On the most basic level, the circumstances of the protagonists are heavily determined by fate, as evidenced by Hazel, Augustus, and Peter VanHouten's experiences with cancer. It can be seen how fate has power over the characters' ailments through the unpredictability of Hazel's cancer, Isaac's abrupt blindness, and Augustus' death.

Cancer has left Hazel with a breathing device that she must permanently attach to her nostrils and Augustus with an artificial limb as a result of his long battle. The emotional anguish causes them appears to outweigh the physical limitations. She is dissatisfied with how the illness has changed her body, resulting in weight loss and an unnaturally puffy face (Marks et al 165). Furthermore, Hazel's lung cancer, as well as the circumstances surrounding her illness, were predetermined by fate. Augustus is also confined to a wheelchair by fate, preventing him from living a normal adolescent life. Imagining how cancer has deprived her and him of a normal adolescent life.

“It’s a metaphor, see: You put the killing thing right between your teeth, but you don’t give it the power to do its killing” (Green 20). Gus' cigarettes are a metaphor for him being able to control his own destiny. Unlit cigarettes allow him to experiment with death without dying as a result. They instill confidence in him, but they don't change the fact that he has no control over his death because unlit cigarettes represent power and control over his life. "You put the deadly thing between your teeth, but you don't give him the power to kill it," he thinks. Cigarettes provide Gus with the confidence and bravery that his character craves. As a

dying patient, he jeopardizes his life by forcing himself to buy more cigarettes, a desperate act to maintain some control over his life. Also, Hazel's reaction to Augustus' cigarette demonstrates how she is offended by the thought of a cancer survivor smoking. This response is intriguing given that many young people are influenced to smoke by their peers. Hazel, as a cancer survivor, understands the truth about smoking on a personal level, which distinguishes her from many other young adults. Augustus' use of the cigarette as a metaphor demonstrates his desire for power.

Augustus' cancer resurfaces after he had been cancer-free for nearly a year. When Hazel sees him after surgery, she notices the physical changes he has undergone. "He met me at the door in his wheelchair, no longer the muscular, gorgeous boy who stared at me at Support Group, but still half smiling, still smoking his unlit cigarette, his blue eyes bright and alive" (Green 234). While Augustus has control over his attitude toward the situation, as evidenced by his ability to remain cheerful despite suffering, he has no control over the physical changes that have occurred to his body. Nobody chooses to be confined to a wheelchair, but Augustus' bad luck and unfortunate fate forces him to.

Previously, at a Support Group, she meets Augustus Waters, with whom she immediately falls in love. He is a 17-year-old osteosarcoma survivor with an infectious sense of humor and eyes of tranquil blue - so blue that Hazel believes she can see right through them. So, the main focus of *The Fault in Our Stars* is that both Hazel and Augustus' lives are shaped by cancer, but they refuse to let it define who they are. The two quickly form a strong bond as a result of their shared understanding of living with cancer and reading Peter Van Houten's fictional novel "An Imperial Infliction," which is about a young girl and her journey with cancer. Illness, brought on by fate, forces Hazel, Augustus, and Peter Van Houten into situations beyond their control.

Augustus said: “As he read, I fell in love the way you fall asleep: slowly, and then all at once”(Green 125) Hazel is usually incredibly rational for an adolescent, especially when it comes to fending off Augustus's romantic advances because she doesn't want to hurt anyone who cares about her as much as she thinks she is a grenade, but things change and she doesn't believe anymore that she is a grenade, therefore; she recognizes that it is better to allow herself to fall into love, like in this quote, even at the chance or certainly of being hurt.

I'm in love with you, and I know that love is just a shout into the void, and that oblivion is inevitable, and that we're all doomed and that there will come a day when all our labor has been returned to dust, and I know the sun will swallow the only earth we'll ever have, and I am in love with you.(Green 153)

Unlike Hazel, Augustus does not hold back when it comes to bold quotes about falling in love. Augustus adheres to the principle of not depriving himself of simple pleasures, saying it about looking at beautiful things and now about saying true things because he knew that he has no control over his disease which is cancer, therefore; he realized to appreciate every moment in his life and decided to accomplish his desires in the rest of his life.

Much of my life had been devoted to trying not to cry in front of people who loved me, so I knew what Augustus was doing. You clench your teeth. You look up. You tell yourself that if they see you cry, it will hurt them, and you will be nothing but a Sadness in their lives, and you must not become a mere sadness, so you will not cry, and you say all of this to yourself while looking up at the ceiling, and then you swallow even though your throat does not want to close and you look at the person who loves you and smile.(Green 213)

Through Augustus and Van Houten's experiment and despite the fact that Hazel had a difficult disease, Hazel decided to try her best to live good moments with her family and her friends even though she realizes that her disease cannot be avoided but she still have the spirit

to live,because when a sick person tries to make parents happy by accomplishing something to be proud of or by finding someone with whom to share their affection,as a result, they would live a healthy lifestyle because the remaining five years of their lives are not lengthy as they had to battle cancer because both main characters had no control over their cancer Fate seems to control whether a person is healthy or sick.

The title,*The Fault in Our Stars*,demonstrates how it is not your fault that certain horrible things are unavoidable.Hazel and Augustus did nothing to create cancer,yet they are now unable to prevent it .They don't let the fact that they can't modify their health hold them back.They continue to fight their cancer battles and refuse to give up.Regardless of the flaw in their stars,they make decisions.This is really inspiring,and we can all benefit from their perseverance.Another letter from Van Houten is delivered by Augustus.The hamartia,or fatal flaw,obvious in Hazel and Augustus' circumstance is mentioned in the letter.He goes on to suggest that Shakespeare was incorrect in having Cassius make a notation stating "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars / But in ourselves." (*Julius Caesar* ,Act I,Scene III,L.140-141).The novel's title which appears in Van Houten's letter to Augustus,is relevant to Hazel and Augustus,and it ties into the existentialism motif.The "stars"Cassius refers to symbolize fate in Shakespeare's play"*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*"from which the book's title is derived.In essence,Cassius informs Brutus that they can't blame their predicaments on fate,but rather that they are the ones to blame.Van Houten shows out that this viewpoint is completely incorrect for Hazel and Augustus.Augustus and Hazel are not to fault for their tumors or the complications that arise as a result of their disease.Instead,they're attempting to make sense of a circumstance that has no apparent significance (their tumors aren't clearly a punishment for any previous conduct,for example) and is beyond their ability to change.

Existentialism's core preoccupations are the apparent absence of significance in many life events and our helplessness to regulate them.They play out here, of course, through the

characters of Hazel and Augustus, who while being teenagers, must grapple with important concerns about meaning and purpose.

Over the next few days, doctors monitor Hazel closely. A doctor comes in with a group of medical students, who practice taking out Hazel's chest tube, causing her pain. She begins to believe that it is part of an existential experience in delayed gratification for specific reasons only where all the predetermined circumstances of her life were supposed to occur.

Through the title of his book, John Green conveys the message that despite the imperfections of our destiny, we can thrive and lead a happy and fulfilling life. Cancer has robbed her of a normal adolescent life as what happened to her, Hazel screams frantically to wake her parents. She feels what seems like a series of explosions in her head. The feeling is so awful that for a brief moment Hazel waits for her death, which doesn't come. She equates the sensation to being on seashore with waves crashing over her, while not being quite allowed to drown. The next thing we know Hazel wakes up in the ICU. Her father explains that the headache was brought on by poor oxygenation, which resulted from her lungs filling with fluid. Hazel sees herself as a source of suffering to her loving surroundings, and in particular, she believes that being close to people will give them a great deal of pain when she dies. One of the hard realities Hazel must accept is that she will eventually die of her disease, leaving those closest to her to deal with the emotional pain of her passing.

Finally, fate plays a role in Augustus and Hazel's relationship. As the main characters and events in *The Fault in Our Stars* demonstrate, fate is a powerful force that governs almost every aspect of life.

2.3.2.1 The Importance of the Crossed Star

The great coincidence that brought Hazel and Augustus together ignited their love for one another. It is because of their destiny choices that they had met. As a result, the stars would not be so horribly crossed, but it is in the nature of stars to cross, as demonstrated

while reading from her eulogy letter, Hazel said “My name is Hazel. Augustus Waters were the great star-crossed love of my life. Ours was an epic love story, and I won’t be able to get more than a sentence into it without disappearing into a puddle of tears. Gus knew. Gus knows. I will not tell you our love story, because—like all real love stories—it will die with us[...]. But, Gus, my love; I cannot tell you how thankful I am for our infinity. I wouldn’t trade it for the world. You gave me a forever within the numbered days, and I’m grateful “(Green 23). Even though, the love of Hazel and Gus which was strong, but they were contradicted in directing their lives individually and collectively to be what they desired. Because, they know that destiny control their choices, as when Hazel said “I want more numbers than I’m likely to get, and God, I want more numbers for Augustus Waters than he got”(Green 23) because she wanted to live more with Augustus but she couldn’t direct her life because she knows that her fate is over her control.

Green's title clearly addresses this issue that the problem is not fate but one's own fault, especially, when Peter Van Houten said “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars/But in ourselves” (Green 111). Consequently, the fate of John Green's masterfully crafted story is the same as Romeo and Juliet's: two star-crossed lovers with a destiny that will not allow them to be together forever. The word "star-crossed," which literally means "against the stars," is used in the prologue of Romeo and Juliet to refer to an ill-fated couple. Stars were thought to have supernatural power over people's lives. But, despite their terminal illness, Hazel and Gus know how to enjoy their time together and appreciate love more. Because characters appear to agree with the Greek idea that the stars shape one's destiny.

Hazel describes herself and Augustus as "star-crossed lovers." Van Houten also claims that the "fault is in our stars." The phrase "star crossed" refers to how fated or predestined it is for people's stars to cross and their lives to intersect. Van Houten illustrates the contradiction between the idea of star-crossed lovers, or people completely at the whim of

a greater power (such as fate), and our flaws being "in ourselves," rather than in our stars. He claims that Shakespeare was incorrect and that life's injustices are the result of an indifferent universe rather than human faults. Van Houten emphasizes the magnitude of Hazel's illness in comparison to Augustus's health, but rather than express anger or sorrow, he acknowledges that "it is the nature of stars to cross," and it is as unavoidable as oblivion.

2.3.3 Conceptual Analysis of Free Will

The novel is a heartbreak, beautifully written, and inspiring book about two cancer-stricken adult teenagers, "Hazel and Augustus," and their struggles, accomplishments, and heartbreaks. Early in *TFIOS*, the world view that most intrigues Hazel is the atheistic existentialism articulated by her favorite author, Peter Van Houten. To illustrate some existentialism ideas, Gus tells Hazel about his "day of the existentially fraught free throws" when he once threw eighty baskets on the court before deciding it was "the stupidest thing I could possibly be doing" (Green 30–31). Similarly, readers learn of a pet hamster in *AIA* named Sisyphus, a reference to Camus's famous *The Myth of Sisyphus*; the hamster endlessly races in his exercise wheel just as the mythic Sisyphus endlessly pushes a boulder uphill. Then there's the fact that Hazel, her mother, and Gus all stay at the Hotel in Amsterdam (an actual hotel) in "The Kierkegaard" and "The Heidegger"—rooms named for two philosophers famously aligned with existentialism.

Existentialism is the ethical theory that we ought to treat the freedom at the core of human existence as intrinsically valuable and the foundation of all other values. If we stick to this definition, we can both recognize the fissures within what is called existentialism in the expansive sense and also see how existentialism ground sophisticated contributions to social psychology, philosophy of mind, moral philosophy, cultural philosophy, and psychotherapy. The term of existentialism was explicitly adopted as a self-description by Jean Paul Sartre. Among the major philosophers identified as existentialists were Karl Jaspers, Martin

Heidegger, and Martin Buber while philosophers generally associated with existentialism include Nietzsche, Camus, and Sartre. Not only but also, have existential psychologists (such as Irvin Yalom and Victor Frankl) in particular emphasized the importance of personal choice in making one's own life meaningful.

Furthermore, existentialism rejects tradition and inherited belief-systems, and questions the existence of God (at least as traditionally viewed in Christian Europe and America). Instead, meaning is created by the individual's choices and actions, with a strong emphasis on authenticity and personal responsibility for one's life.

Hazel's interest in existentialism helps launch her relationship with Gus. During their very first encounter, Gus tells the Support Group that he fears oblivion, and Hazel responds with ideas that could be lifted right out of Sartre: "There will come a time when all of us are dead[...]There will be no one left to remember Aristotle or Cleopatra, let alone you. "Everything that we did and built and wrote and thought and discovered will be forgotten" (Green 13). Hazel's existentialism is inspired by *An Imperial Affliction*; she loves the novel because it captures her struggle and offers a framework that helps her face her terminal cancer. She tells Gus that Van Houten understands her "in weird and impossible ways. [*IA*] was mybook in the same way that my body was my body, and my thoughts were my thoughts"(Green 34).

Van Houten's view of God was implicit because he used the personification of God as a grandiose and unreliable character in *The Imperial Affliction* Book called "the Dutch Tulip Man. Moreover, Van Houten used to ridicule from the religious characters as an example: the minister at Gus's funeral; more importantly, when Hazel realized the fact beyond the sadness and the grief of the Writer Van Houten which was caused because of his young daughter's loss from cancer.

Even though she used to read Van Houten's book daily and routinely but when meeting her favorite author, she hated him; probably, because of his bad rude treatment, for instance, at the first meeting on the doorstep, he slams the door in their faces also his situation was bad being intoxicated and belligerent "You say you don't want pity but your very existence depends on it[...]sick children inevitably become arrested: You are fated to live out your days as the child you were before you were diagnosed, the child who believes there is life after a novel ends" (Green 192) due to that fate stands for the events that a person has absolutely no control over as well as that fate shapes the character's lives.

When Hazel was very curious to know the answer about her question and she wanted strongly to know the end of sole characters, he refused to answer her and she was really upset saying "BULLSHIT," knocks his drink from his hand, and storms out (Green 193). Disappointedly, another day she tried to go out. Augustus tells her when he was holding the cigarette between his lips; however, she was in a panic but eventually when he explained she felt at ease and changed her view totally. Since Augustus is constantly fighting his cancer battle, he wanted to show how for once he can stop something from hurting his body. By not lighting the cigarette, Gus never gave it the power to affect him.

"Sir, you can't smoke on this plane. Or on any plane. I don't smoke, he explained, the cigarette dancing in his mouth as he spoke. But—"It's a metaphor," [Hazel] explained. He puts the killing thing in his mouth but doesn't give it the power to kill him" (Green 146). which mean Augustus is constantly fighting his cancer battle, he wanted to show how for once he can stop something from hurting his body. By not lighting the cigarette, Gus never gave it the power to affect him. Indeed, his gesture calls to mind Sartre's famous remark, "A man is his choices" (Sartre 59). Also, the debate over free will versus determinism was about the extent to which our behavior is the result of forces over which we have no control or whether people are able to decide for themselves whether or not to act a certain way. Moreover, the

psychologist Sigmund Freud believed that all actions occur but are also free because they are generally not forced with realizing that free will might be limited, physicians, and philosophers and refined other options to explain how humans move in the world. In addition, existentialism emphasizes that you are responsible for your own existence through your own actions. According to Aristotle and the majority of great thinkers, we as humans have some control over our fortunes (at least to some level); therefore, our fate is not fully controlled by a preset system of things based on the rule of necessity. Instead, we can exercise a force of free will of our own volition.

He respects Hazel's freedom of choice because he believes that a person is the sole decider of his or her own life. As a result, he expresses his love and pursues Hazel without ever pressuring her. This emphasis on individual liberty bolsters Hazel's existentialist leanings. As an example, Hazel decided to live her life based on her own critical decisions. So, she and Gus go to The Anne Frank Museum, where Hazel insists on climbing three flights of high stairs while gasping for Oxygen. She turns to Gus at the top and kisses him passionately. Later on she finally expresses her love. She lets him love her as well. Hazel's decision to finally let herself fall for Gus and remain steadfast in love shapes the rest of the novel, even after they leave romantic Amsterdam. She stands by him when she learns his cancer has returned and he will soon die.

Hazel discovers a letter written by Gus after he passes away, "You don't get to choose if you get hurt in this world[...] but you do have some say in who hurts you. I like my choices. I hope she likes hers." Hazel responds without hesitation, "I do, Augustus. I do"(Green 313). Because of the presence of existentialism in *The Imperial Affliction*, Hazel realized an important idea after she gained an experience from Van Houten's novel and through what happened to Gus, she realized the strong power of her choice in enjoying every moment of life and she understood the value of personal freedom and respectful love. As she

realized the importance of her free will and supported her personal choices, which were made only by her. As an example, when she saw the depth of her favorite author's suffering, she realized the meaning of life; as a result, she began to love Gus and her perspective shifted completely from dejected unhappy to optimistic person who appreciates her life destination.

2.4 Conceptual Analyses Within Sides of Fate

2.4.1 Death as a Predetermined Side of Fate

Through Hazel's relationship with Augustus, the theme of life and death emerges. It's no coincidence that Hazel and Augustus first connect during their support group during a conversation about death and nothingness. When it comes to their own mortality, both Hazel and Augustus are extremely sensitive. They are forced to address topics that most young people do not have to confront, but their concerns revolve on typical existential dilemmas, such as how do you deal with the loss of a loved one? How do you find purpose in life and death, for example? What is the best way to leave a legacy? What impact does one's death have on others? Is there an afterlife and what if there isn't? The investigation of these topics leads to their growth as characters. Their own fears about dying take different paths. Augustus is scared of fading into obscurity after he dies, that his life will be pointless and that no one would remember him. Hazel replies by intellectualizing her impermanence after bringing this issue up in the support group. She claims that everything will perish, that there was a time before consciousness and a time after it. Despite her intellectualization, she remains terribly disturbed over the problem of her own impending mortality. Unlike Augustus' self-centered anxiety of fading into obscurity, Hazel sees her impending death as a catastrophic event that will harm people around her, as if she were a grenade about to detonate because she is mostly concerned with preventing the pain of her death from reaching people around her. This anxiety drives her to withdraw from her peers and family, limiting her desire to engage in typical adolescent activities.

Green seems to deal with a kind of reciprocity of liking within his novel. That is, someone seems to like those who like him and exchange the same emotions with them. The case for Hazel is that she has ever prevented herself to make friendships and to be loved by someone because she has always thought of her death and considered herself as a grenade that can explode at any time and hurt the surrounding because she deduced that death is her end. Gradually, her perspective towards life starts to become more of a pessimistic one (Fithroni 11).

Her health issues made her feel uncomfortable when engaging in any outdoor activities, especially when being around her friends that are having healthier bodies and easier lives. Even when spending time with her friend Kaitlyn at the mall because she decided to meet her old friend deliberately in order to change her usual routine, but there was always something that reminds her of death and dying: “Is it even possible to walk in these? I mean, I would die ---“ and then stopped short, looking at me as if to say I’m sorry, as if it were a crime to mention death to the dying. “You should try them on,” Kaitlyn continued, trying to paper over the awkwardness. “I’d sooner die,” I assured her” (Green 31). Eventually, Hazel concludes that she will never be a normal person again nor will she be able to maintain her old life back. This is shown when she says:

The other thing about Kaitlyn, I guess, was that it could never again feel natural to talk to her. Any attempts to feign normal social interactions were just depressing because it was so glaringly obvious that everyone I spoke to for the rest of my life would feel awkward and self-conscious around me (Green 33).

After her few attempts in socializing and meeting people again, Hazel has the firm belief that her illness and death thoughts shall be carry with her till the end.

“I want you guys to have a life,” I said. “I worry that you won’t have a life, that you’ll sit around here all day with no one to look after and stare at the walls and want to off

yourselves” (Green 173). Clearly, Hazel is worried about the day when she passes away leaving a huge gap in her parent’s life especially since she is the center of their attention, also because they devote most of their time to her. Consequently, she decided to isolate herself from others and she kept telling her family to live their lives because she thought that she is hurting them when she is the only centre of their lives.

Hazel’s condition is hopeless and her death’s potential is higher than other people she starts believing that the ultimate solution in order not to hurt the ones that she admires after passing away is by avoiding any emotional attachments, having relationships.

There will come a time when all of us are dead. All of us there will come a time when there are no human beings remaining to remember that anyone ever existed or that our species ever did anything. There will be no one left to remember Aristotle or Cleopatra, let alone you. Everything that we did and built and wrote and thought and discovered will be forgotten and all of this will have been for naught. Maybe that time is coming soon and maybe it is millions of years away, but even if we survive the collapse of our sun, we will not survive forever. There was time before organisms experienced consciousness, and there will be time after. And if the inevitability of human oblivion worries you, I encourage you to ignore it. God knows that’s what everyone else does.(Green 13).

These are the first words Hazel delivers to Augustus in Support Group, presenting them as a kind of sermon and immediately impressing him. This establishes their romantic path for the remainder of the novel as gritty and realistic while also being witty and intellectual. Augustus's greatest fear is pinpointed by Hazel, and while she can never completely break him of his ambition to establish a name for himself, she is able to better consider her own thoughts on the subject throughout the story.

The young characters in *The Fault in Our Stars* deal with death on a regular basis. Despite the protagonists' best efforts to live by the credo of their support group, "Living our best lives today," their every deed, interaction, and experience is cast in the shadow of their coming deaths.

Her fixation with the fictional work *An Imperial Affliction* stems from her dread of harming others through her death. Hazel relates with the book since it depicts death and dying accurately, but she gets concerned with what happens after the novel's abrupt finish. Hazel wants to know what happens to the family in *An Imperial Affliction* after the main character dies, believing that knowing this will help her understand how her death will affect her family. Moreover, she is mostly concerned with preventing the pain of her death from reaching people around her. This anxiety drives her to withdraw from her peers and family, limiting her desire to engage in typical adolescent activities. Her fixation with the fictional work *An Imperial Affliction* stems from her dread of harming others through her death. Hazel relates with the book since it depicts death and dying accurately, but she gets concerned with what happens after the novel's abrupt finish. Hazel wants to know what happens to the family in *An Imperial Affliction* after the main character dies, believing that knowing this will help her understand how her death will affect her family.

When Augustus' cancer resurfaces and he dies, she is able to understand what it's like to lose someone you care about and work through it, allowing her to accept the idea that her family will be able to survive her own death. Hazel also learns that death is an experience that allows us to appreciate life. "Without pain, how could we know joy?" (Green 35), means without suffering we would not know the meaning of relaxation, ease, or happiness. Besides, she adds during Augustus' eulogy, demonstrating her knowledge that death is an experience that permits us to live and love to the fullest. Finally, it becomes evident that our relationships

with others shape our lives, and the importance and meaning of these ties is illustrated by the anguish experienced when a loved one dies.

2.4.2 Cancer and Suffering as Predetermined Side of Fate:

Cancer is a terminal illness. According to the medical study, everybody has cancer cell. Most of cancer patient should live the cancer. Their family always supports anything what they do, as long as it has positive impact for them. (Wulandar 4). Because cancer lives in the body and if any person got it, there will be power to prevent it. But, in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel, the main protagonists chose different destinations to fight the cancer.

The novel *The Fault in Our Stars* is the sixth novel by author John Green, published in January 2012. The story is narrated by a sixteen-year-old cancer patient Hazel Grace Lancaster, who is forced by her parents to attend a support group in the "Literal Heart of Jesus" where she subsequently meets and falls in love with seventeen-year-old Augustus Waters, an ex-basketball player, as well as an amputee.

Being a young girl with cancer made her lose her self-confidence and worthiness, she felt she is a toy under the supreme power of destiny. In her view, suffering from a serious disease as cancer and spending most of her time at hospitals, taking daily medications, and carrying an oxygen tank wherever she goes makes her "a non-regular teenager", because usually people with cancer feel that there is no future for them. With a short life they just want to fill their life with waiting and doing nothing. More importantly, cancer is thought to be a result of fate regulating in which it plays a significant role in molding the lives of the characters; as an example, in a support group Hazel says: "I'm Hazel, I'd say when they'd get to me. Sixteen Thyroid originally but with an impressive and long-settled satellite colony in my lungs" (Green 5). Hazel mentions her illness right after her name and age, demonstrating how important it is to her as a part of her identity. The cancer in Hazel's lungs, as well as the circumstances surrounding her illness, was predestined by fate; consequently, Hazel identifies

herself through her illness, which she did not choose. Cancer, on the other hand, is something beyond her control, something predetermined by fate because neither Hazel nor Augustus has control over their cancer. Despite all the research and treatments, there is no guaranteed way to prevent and eradicate this disease.

The author discovered that suffering could be the theme for the novel "The Fault in Our Stars" because suffering is the impact of cancer, and cancer was a result of fate's force as predetermined by destiny. Hazel is suffering from both physical and emotional pain in her life. Hazel is concerned about inflicting this suffering and pain on others when she dies, including Augustus, her friends, and family. She compares herself to a grenade. It can be seen in the following line: "I'm like. Like. I'm like a grenade, Mom. I'm a grenade and at some point I'm going to blow up and I would like to minimize the casualties, okay?"[...] "I'm a grenade," I said again. "I just want to stay away from people and read books and think and be with you guys because there's nothing I can do about hurting you; you're too invested, so just please let me do that, okay?" (Green 62). According to the previous quote, Hazel begins by referring to herself as a "grenade," a metaphor for misery and pain. It's only a matter of time before a grenade goes off after being thrown. She imagined herself as a grenade, ready to explode and harm those around her, which is why she couldn't let Gus fall in love with her; she believes her time is limited. As a result, she does not want more people to care for her when she is only going to hurt them, so she aimed to be as passive as possible in order to avoid being held responsible for any pain. We can see that Hazel decides to isolate herself from others, with the exception of her parents, who she cannot isolate herself from. However, because of her guilt, she insists that they get a life that isn't solely focused on taking care of her. While Augustus wishes to make a difference in people's lives and accomplish great things, Hazel does not. Hazel's concept of self-worth is revealed when she refers to herself as a grenade: she is dangerous and unworthy of affection. Eventually, she becomes a sad,

pessimistic person who sees nothing positive ahead except for death and prefers isolation rather than being around other people. However, Hazel allows Gus to love her, she gains a new sense of love, sorrow, and self-worth, but she is caught in a paradox: she wants to be close to her parents and Augustus, but she doesn't want to hurt them.

Another similar incident happens when Hazel, Augustus and her mother are at the airplane:

That was the worst part about having cancer, sometimes: The physical evidence of disease separates you from other people. We were irreconcilably other, and never was it more obvious than when the three of us walked through the empty plane, the stewardess nodding sympathetically. (Green 144)

In this textual evidence, Hazel admits that her physiological state is affecting her thoughts by making her believe that she will never belong to normal people again, which arouses concurrently with the sense of oddity she feels when she sees how people treat her differently because of her disease.

I'm not going on dates," I said. "I don't want to go on dates with anyone. It's a terrible idea and a waste of time"[...] "There's nothing I can do about hurting you; you're too invested, so just please let me do that, okay? I'm not depressed. I don't need to get out anymore. And I can't be a regular teenager, because I'm a grenade" (Green 62).

From this quote we can deduce that due to Hazel's difficult situation, she realized that she doesn't deserve Augustus care and love because she felt that she is different from the rest of teenagers as indirectly, she was blaming the cancer and the destiny control over her. It is clear that her suffering is not only pain of cancer, but the thought of people around her would know that she would die. Hazel cannot imagine that. She said:

Hi, so okay, I don't know if you'll understand this but I can't kiss you or anything. Not that you'd necessarily want to, but I can't. When I try to look at you like that, all I see is what I'm going to put you through. Maybe that doesn't make sense to you. Anyway sorry. (Green101).

It is clearly seen from this quote that Hazel cannot do a lot of things with people she loved as she is limited to time, she confined herself. Suffering increasingly rises when she finds her love named Augustus. Loving him means doing things together, closer to each other, and even kissing and love is supposed to make her happy, but exactly she is sad as to seem she doesn't understand herself and she couldn't accept the negative sides of cancer which was predestined by fate and that ruined her life.

“Without pain, how could we know joy?” This is an old argument in the field of thinking about suffering and its stupidity and lack of sophistication could be plumbed for centuries but suffice it to say that the existence of broccoli does not, in any way, affect the taste of chocolate.(Green 35).

It is a true fact because if we did not experience pain, we would not understand the sense or meaning of joy, relaxation, or health. Even though Hazel dismisses the concept of pain, she supports it in her true eulogy for Augustus, in which she explains that the purpose of funerals is to relax and comfort the living people, and thus she recognized the intermingling of pain and joy. Besides, the quote was hanging up in Augustus's house which they both took comfort from. Hazel suggests that the pain she and Augustus dealt with was worth it for the joy they experienced, and perhaps that the pain made their joy that much greater. It is also significant that she realizes she wouldn't give up what she had with Augustus even though his death hurt her, her parents wouldn't give up their time with her means you will not know how the other side of the rode feels unless you feel pain and hurt.

But not all people with cancer do become isolated and depressed as Hazel, several people sometimes make their own activity to fight the cancer supposed they get better or even cure from it such as in Gus's situation, who appreciated every moment. Also, he has control over his attitude toward his situation, as evidenced by his ability to remain cheerful despite suffering; he has no control over the physical changes that have occurred to his body. Nobody chooses to be confined to a wheelchair, but Augustus' bad luck and unfortunate fate forces him to. As Augustus said:

"That's the thing about pain[...]it demands to be felt," he said, which was a line from *An Imperial Affliction* (Green 110). The phrase "Pain demands to be felt" sums up Hazel's attitude toward her cancer case, specifically, "*The Fault in Our Stars*" is a novel about dealing with harsh realities, particularly suffering. We frequently see the characters deal with intense pain, both physical and emotional, and one of the more prominent ideas that keep coming up is the notion that pain cannot be avoided as well as cancer. We don't get to choose whether or not we get hurt as well as neither Hazel nor Augustus has control over their cancer. Despite all the research and treatments, there is no guaranteed way to prevent and eradicate this disease which was something beyond their control, something predetermined by fate. If pain cannot be avoided, they believe that facing it head on is the best way to deal with it. Because of this, Hazel is disgusted by all the platitudes about children with cancer. They are intellectually dishonest attempts to avoid rather than confront all of the pains associated with being young and dying of cancer. Furthermore, they do not eliminate or even alleviate pain. Instead, Hazel believes that pain should be recognized for what it is, an inherent part of being alive (a "side effect" of living, as she might put it), and acknowledged rather than avoided.

Eventually, Gus taught us that in spite of the shortcomings of our fates, we can always make the best of the moments we have left to live, after passing of cancer. It is very heart-warming. Through the whole Cancer Support Group, Hazel and Augustus attend; they are

always surrounded by people who are going through similar sicknesses,however; Hazel's health condition and the side effects of her illness compel her to appear different and isolated.

2.5 Conclusion

In this chapter, we attempted to conduct a thorough examination of John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012) in terms of decision-making, which is either dependent on the protagonist's personal choices or dependent on their destiny's control. Millions of readers have been drawn to the story of doomed adolescent love. The plot revolves around a young girl named Hazel Grace Lancaster, who is diagnosed with thyroid cancer later on she joins a support group to get out from her isolated zone where suddenly she meets and falls in love with Augustus Waters, the boy who will be her love. Green, as it appears, represented the characters who accepted their flaws. Despite the fact that they both have cancer, they both enjoy the feeling of a loving relationship. The novel's main focus is on both Hazel and Augustus' lives, which are shaped by cancer, but they refuse to let it define who they are. It is fate, however, that has confined Augustus to a wheelchair and prevented him from living a normal adolescent life. Hazel, in particular, spends her time alone at home reading the same book and daydreaming about death. In illustrating how cancer has robbed her of a normal adolescent existence, we can see that fate has a strong influence in shaping the characters' lives.

General Conclusion

From the analysis of the data it can be concluded that John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* is a powerful novel in which it attracts the attention of all people around the world and it got a great impact internationally. The novel shows a love between two young youth suffering from cancer; in addition, the author believes the book provides some very powerful lessons if the readers can see through the pain and sufferance of the story. There had been difficult situations in Hazel and Augustus lives where destiny controlled their lives strongly. According to the psychiatrist Alexander Lowen that Destiny is what we do with fate, how we play the hand we're each dealt by fate. Destiny is determined not solely by fate, but by how we choose to respond to fate. We are responsible for those choices. Part of each person's fate includes a personal destiny. Moreover, as the title of the book indicates, and as Green affirms, the teenagers who suffer from cancer are aware that it is not their fault. In addition that Hazel and Gus experienced many things wherein many teenagers didn't encounter.

Hazel is portrayed as romantic and realistic; she imagines things to stand against the disease and to live the last days of her life. Her fear of hurting others after her passing away leads to her obsession with the fictional novel, *An Imperial Affliction*, and by what happened to the family after Anne's death and the novel's abrupt ending. She believes that this knowledge will give her insight into the deep impact of her death on her family.

Gus's main goal is to make something of himself before he inevitably passes away, so as not to be forgotten "Oblivion" recognizing the importance to be remembered after their death. Therefore, it is more positive to embrace a full and well-lived life. Hazel also develops a new understanding of life and death, joy and pain, destiny and free will, cancer and its suffering through her relationship with Augustus and through recognizing Van Houten's reality about his daughter; therefore, these relations led her to change her views in life. In conclusion, John Green conveys the message that despite the imperfections of our destiny, we can thrive and lead a happy and fulfilling life and enjoy every passing moment. It becomes

clear that life is defined by appreciating the living people around us who we do care about due to the strength of the individual and communicative relationships. Also, that death is a necessity in life that every human being is bound to die, and that destiny control our lives either we accepted or we refused. So, John Green led us to a great journey full of life hazards with a surprise ending beginning with a culminating event, Hazel's impending death due to her cancer, and ends with the death of Gus. But, we valued precious concepts as: love, life, passion, grief, sickness, destiny power, personal choice, death, and appreciating the good moments in our lives.

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ملخص

هذه الرسالة عبارة عن تحقيق في المصير وخيارات الحياة بالرجوع إلى أغسطس و هازل في رواية الخطأ في نجومنا. يستقصي هذا البحث في كيفية تصور الشخصيتين الرئيسيتين لخيارات الحياة ، والهدف من هذه الدراسة هو تحليل الطريقة التي تم بها تقديم المصير و خيارات الحياة في الرواية من ناحية كيف تجلت القرارات من خلال القدر ، وتأثير قراراتهم الشخصية على خيارات حياتهم. تتبنى الدراسة المنهج النوعي باستخدام نظريات التحليل النفسي في النقد الأدبي ، وذلك لتحليل الشخصيتين الرئيسيتين. وأظهرت الدراسة أن هازل تعبر عن رفضها لمصيرها و عدم تقبل سيطرته على حياتها و أوغسطس أيضا، يظهر رفضه لمصيره من خلال الطريقة التي يتصرف بها و التي تعطي انطباعًا بأنه لن يكون محكومًا عليه بالموت ، ويعيش حياته بالكامل.

يعد التحليل الوصفي للشخصيتين الرئيسيتين، هازل جريس وأوغسطس وترز و إستدللا بتسلسل الأحداث والظروف المختلفة التي مروا بها، خاصة في معاناة مرض السرطان و تأثير العامل النفسي عليهما. أصبح التحليل النفسي ممكنًا بسبب حقيقة أن الشخصيات الأدبية تمثل إنسانًا حقيقيًا في الحياة؛ لأنهم بمثابة تقليد للواقع. سرعان ما يشكل الاثنان رابطًا قويًا نتيجة فهمهما المشترك للتعاش مع السرطان وقراءة رواية بيتر فان هوتين والتي تدور حول فتاة صغيرة ورحلتها مع السرطان. المرض ، الناجم عن القدر ، يجبر هازل وأغسطس وبيتر فان هوتين على مواقف خارجة عن إرادتهم.. يؤكد عنوان كتاب بيتر فان هوتين على عدم قدرة البشر على الهروب من المعاناة وأن أفعالنا محددة سلف و يدل إهتمامها بالكتاب خاصة مع مرض السرطان على توافق مع تجربتها الخاصة

الكلمات المفتاحية: القدر، الإرادة الحرة، التحليل النفسي، هازل جريس.