

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS

This part presents the answer of the two questions formulated in problem formulation. The first part deals with the conflicts and how the main character deals with them, and the second part is concerned with the purpose of writing the book and how the character is worth considering as a role model in people's lives.

4.1. The conflicts Nick experiences and how he deals with them

The first part of this chapter presents the life conflict experienced by Nick Vujicic, and the conflicts range from internal to external ones. After describing the kinds of life conflicts, the writer explains how the character faces and resolves his conflicts. The conflicts give an idea on how he struggles to maintain his sanity. By his own self – realization or the support of other people around him.

Nicholas James Vujicic or Nick Vujicic is a long awaited son of Boris and Duska Vujicic. He has two siblings Aaron and Michelle. He is a motivational speaker and evangelist who was born in Melbourne Australia on December 4 1982. He was born without arms and legs and eventually became one of the world's most sought-after motivational speakers. He has been almost everywhere to inspire people and share his messages of love and determination.

During his life Nick has faced many conflicts in his life. The first conflict is an inner one. Soon after his birth, his mother was extremely surprised to see him and

said “Take him away. I don’t want to touch him.” It was when he realized that he was born without limbs; that he is special from God. His father, Boris, had a different reaction. Initially, he only thought that his son was missing one arm during the delivery, but the nurse said that his son lost both arms and legs. Knowing that fact, Boris felt queasy and was escorted out. He was shocked and anguished. He sat stunned and unable to speak, but after that, as a good husband who should protect his wife, he rushed in to prepare his wife before she saw Nick. Unfortunately, it was too late.

The medical team did not know how to take care of the sad mom when it happened, because that was the first time someone was born without limbs in their hospital. Then Boris tried to tell his wife that their baby looked beautiful. When his wife asked why nobody sent them flowers, he bought a flower banquet near the hospital. The good attitude and positive action of Nick’s father Boris, a lay pastor, was because he remembered that God must have a plan for them. Nick's parents declined the grandparents' offer. They decided that it was their responsibility to raise Nick as best as they could. They grieved and then they set about raising their physically challenged son to be as normal as he could be. They are people of strong faith and they keep thinking that God must have had some reasons for giving them such a son. The healing is faster if you keep moving.

During his growing up time, sometimes Nick felt guilty and worthless about his life. He felt worthless, unconfident. He wanted to commit suicide. But on the other side he did not want his parents and his siblings grieved over his death and so

on. It made him questioned himself a lot In 1993, when he was 10 years old, he attempted to commit suicide. But because he remembered a memory that his parents, brother and sister cried, he did not do that; he did not want to be a burden. He continued his life. After that he realized that God has a purpose for his life, although he was born without limbs, like in the gospel of John 9 :1-3.

The second conflict is Nick against his school friends. He was bullied at school. He had been through depression then he forgave his friends who bullied him. His parents used to tell him, "It's OK, you're just special." The one thing no one in that situation likes to hear. He did not want to be special; he wanted to be normal. He wanted his arms and legs. "Everyone had arms and legs but me," he said. Vujicic's wake-up call came when he was eight years old. It made him realize that he needed a change of heart. It led him to start being thankful for what he had. His attitude was summed up by a meeting with a six-year-old a few years back then. The boy looked up and down Vujicic's body and said: "Well, at least you have a head."

The third conflict is Nick versus nature or distance. He was leaving for Brisbane that made him very sad because he had to leave his support system in Melbourne. Although he had to experience many challenges or conflicts such as education system, health insurance, cultural differences, and school adaptation which are very difficult and made him stressed out, he realized that he had to face them like what he read in the gospel of Luke 8:4-15 about a sower who sowed the seeds in different terrains.

The fourth conflict is Nick against supernatural power. He wondered and prayed every day and night to God and asked for arms and legs. He promised if God granted his prayers, he would spread his testimony of God's words and God's grace to around the world.

The fifth conflict is Nick against technology. It was when he used technology for his daily life needs or his necessities. For instance, when he takes a bath, brushes his teeth, and finds everything he needs. He had an operation to separate his two feet. The doctor believed that if it was separated, Nick could use them like his hands. He could do everything in his daily activities like opening a page, holding a pen, sending an email, and doing several activities in his daily life.

The sixth conflict is Nick against society; between Nick and his school. When he entered elementary school, his parents decided for him to study in a public school rather than to special needs person school. His parents appealed to the government to let Nick study in the public school because they believed that Nick had to study in a normal school. They won their case in the courts in 1989. Nick became the first disabled person in Australia who went to the public school, a normal school. He even became the headline of Australian newspapers.

4.2. Nick Vujific's purposes to write his biography

He was inspired to write this autobiography to encourage people around the world that people have a great purpose in life although they have their own circumstances in life. He was born without arms and legs, but eventually became one

of the world's most sought-after motivational speakers. He has been almost everywhere to inspire people and share his messages of love and determination. When his parents moved from Melbourne Australia to the USA in 1994, they needed money for his medical treatment. Since they had to earn money to settle in America, they made the biography to raise and earn money.

He founded the *Life Without Limbs Foundation* at only 17 years old. Despite his physical limitations, he completed his degree with a double major in Accounting and Financial Planning at 21 years old. He became a motivational speaker and evangelist when he was 19 years old. He had traveled to more than 90 countries around the world. He encourages young people to overcome his problems, fear, and every unfortunate circumstance in life.

Other than *Life Without Limbs*, he has another nonprofit organization which is *Attitude Is Altitude* that was founded in 2007 by Nick Vujicic in order to spark passion, kindle hope and ignite change all around the world. Born with no arms and no legs, Nick surmounted extraordinary odds and learned to face his challenges head-on. He got married and lives happily ever after. Now he has a beautiful wife whose name is Kanae Miyahara and four children named Kiyoshi, Dejan, and the twin daughters, Ellie and Olivia.

The second reason for writing the biography is that Nick was told by his parents that the medical staff was not ready yet to accept, to reach out, or to give empathy to the children who suffer from pocha amelia like Nick. Writing a biography means that they raise awareness about people with special needs.

Nick is very successful during his lifetime. He wins awards, earns money and becomes popular. He is a real estate entrepreneur, evangelist, and motivational speaker. He released a motivational short film, entitled *Life's Greater Purpose*. He was nominated Young Australian of the Year in 2005 for his foundation and inspirational/motivational speaking. In 2006, he founded his own company, *Attitude is Altitude*, which is dedicated to public speaking and evangelism. In 2008 he became an evangelist and told the congregation “No matter who you are, no matter what you’re going through, God knows it,” he said. “He is with you. He is going to pull you through.”

His first book, *Life Without Limits: Inspiration for a Ridiculously Good Life* became popular rather quickly, resulting in the invitations to be interviewed on shows such as 20/20 and 60 Minutes. *The Butterfly Circus*, a film in which he was featured, won the first prize at the Method Film Festival, received a Doorstop Film Award, and gave Nick his first “Best Actor” award. In 2010, *The Butterfly Circus* won the “Best Short Film” Award at the Feel Good Film Festival.

The writer believes that Nick will still be successful or popular even after he dies. Everybody is going to revive his work because his messages and his story inspire people around the world to believe that they are unique and have special purposes in life. Moreover, his foundations such as *Life Without Limbs Foundation* and *Attitude is Altitude* are going to remain.

Nick Vujicic is considered influential because his writing encourages people around the world especially the special needs people and their parents that they still

have hope, faith, love and courage to live in this world; that it is not the end of the world. Those qualities are portrayed through Nick Vujicic's story of conquering the world and his parents' story when they have to raise Nick who was born with no arms and legs. Research on the disabled people like Nick Vujicic has been done by some scholars. A study by Den Elzen, (2019) titled *Finding happiness and wellbeing in the face of extreme adversity* examines how people find happiness and create wellbeing when confronted by extreme adversity. Elzen used dialogical self-theory to analyze published autobiographies of Nick Vujicic and an Austrian author Barbara Pachel-Eberhart. Moreover, a research titled *The Dynamics of Netizens' Information-Sharing in Social Media: Why do We Share Information in Social Media?* examines the process of generating Abadiano's Netizens Information Sharing Theory (Abadiano et al., 2014). This paper aims to validate the problem why we share information content in social media. It will also give us a glimpse of the psychology of information sharing and how the netizens shared content in social media sites like YouTube. The researcher analyzed the validity of the netizens' prevalent emotions in commenting on the inspirational video that is worth sharing. This study used the data mining method found in the social media, YouTube video, of the inspirational viral post of Nick Vujicic.

Dr Cara Barker, who is a psychologist and leadership coach, stated in *Huffington Post* that Nick Vujicic demonstrates that it is possible to awaken the heart. He gives inspiration for disabled people around the world. He finds opportunity when people say that it is the end of the world. When he was growing up, it was difficult

for him to imagine himself being called a hero or an inspiration to anyone. He realized that as a child he was angry about what he did not have or frustrated about what he could not do. He only pushed people away from him. But when he looked for an opportunity to serve others they were drawn to him. He has learned not to wait around but pushed himself ahead and made his own. Every time he gives a speech, attends an event, or visits a new part of the world, he meets new people, learns about new organizations, and gathers information that opens new opportunities down the road.

There are five characteristics that Nick Vujicic has. The writer is going to explain and give specific examples of these characteristics. It focuses on his personal life and professional lives. First, Nick has hope, faith and love in life. He believes that he has full assurance in the heart from God, although at age fifteen he asked God why he has no arms or legs. One day, when he was fifteen, he heard a story of the blind man in John 9:1-3. This scripture tells him that he is not a burden. He is not deficient and not being punished, but he is customized to manifest God's work. This scripture made Nick swept in tears and it is God's grace that spoke to him through that chapter. Moreover, he tells the preamble of the sower in Mathew 13:3-23; Mark 4:1-20. He remembers those chapters when he experiences sadness and sorrows. It encourages him so much

Second, Nick always hopes for his future. Although sometimes he wondered and asked why he was born without arms and legs, he never gives up and faces every obstacle in life. He discusses his challenges, and then he finds a solution for his

problem. For instance, when he had an operation to separate his foot fingers, the doctor believed that separating his feet toes would enable him to use them for daily activities such as typing, sending an email, using a mobile phone and supporting his daily activities. Nick says everyone has a great purpose in life. Although we never know what happens in life, we have to believe that God creates us for great purpose in life. He said we should not wait for happiness to simply appear as soon as we reach a certain goal or acquire a desired object. Happiness should surround us all the time. And it will, if you live in mental, psychological, emotional and physical harmony.

Third, he always shows his gratitude to Jesus Christ. He is very kind hearted and always be thankful in every situation in his life. For instance when he was thirteen years old, his parents told him about his birth story after he wondered why he was born without arms and legs. He understands why his parents always hid the truth about his birth story until he was mature to accept the truth. Then he wonders how it felt when his parents had to accept the reality that his first born son was born without arms and legs.

Then one day when he had to preach in front of his friends in biblical study class. He shared his testimony with his friends. He said that there were ups and downs in his life and he thought that God forgot him and how it was to live without arms and legs. Sometimes he was sad, sorrowful and happy. He shared his testimony for 10 minutes that day. His friends were crying and he wondered why everyone was crying; “Did I do something wrong?” His friend said that Nick’s story was amazing, that Nick believed that it was God who directed and showed him his great purpose in

his life. Although he is not perfect, he has everything to inspire people around the world through him (Vujicic, 2010a).

Fourth, he encourages us to love ourselves and accept ourselves more. Because if we cannot accept ourselves when we are young and free, what would it be like when we are old or when we have some anxiety disorders. Loving ourselves and accepting ourselves like God loves us will give us a new mindset, peace, and satisfaction. It means we share our happiness together with our friends. We feel confident, enough and content with ourselves. Furthermore, when we shine from the inside, we become the charm for people around us. We bring positive vibes, joy, cheer, happiness and blessing for people around us.

Fifth, Nick conquers his own fear and failure, for instance, when he wonders about his life in the future; when he decides to become a public speaker rather than an accountant. Sometimes he wonders and questions his future such as job, career, marriage and everything about future life. Sometimes when he thinks about it, he feels very depressed. But, finally he attends many congregations and preaching. He becomes a motivational speaker to the CEOs, public figures, and other people.

Nick demonstrates his philosophy that a person should get up from his fall. His demonstration means that God created you to get up and try again if you fall down again and again until you are going through the finish line. Only then do you give your best.