CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is widely recognized as a reflection of human life because it represents people's thoughts, emotions, beliefs, and experiences through artistic expression. Among the various forms of literary works, the novel remains one of the most influential genres due to its ability to present complex narratives and explore different aspects of human existence. According to Watt (1957), the novel developed as a literary form that realistically portrays individual experience and everyday life, making it an important medium for understanding social, cultural, psychological, and philosophical issues.

Survival is a fundamental aspect of the human experience, encompassing the strategies and skills necessary to overcome challenges and endure adversity. In literary stories as well as in real life, the ability to survive against all odds is inspiring and important. In the context of survival, humans often need help from something that can serve as a source of faith, which provides much-needed encouragement. This sense of trust can give hope and strength to support humans in fighting against all extreme situations. Survival skills are the result of faith, from first aid to advanced navigation, which equips individuals with hope and creates a will to survive, a purpose to fight, followed by adaptation in the face of unexpected danger and navigating through difficult situations. Understanding the relationship between faith and striving will illustrate that in our lives, we must hold on to faith. By diving into faith in survival, we will gain an understanding of the human capacity for adaptation, problem-solving, and perseverance. In addition, delving into the topic of survival will encourage us to reflect on the preparedness and flexibility we have in the face of adversity. This research dives into the topic of survival beliefs, dissecting the challenges they pose and their importance in different contexts. By focusing on the perseverance of faith and the basic human instinct for survival, this research aims to shed light on the complex relationship between faith as a handle and resilience, an adaptation that empowers individuals

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to overcome obstacles and emerge victorious in the most difficult situations. Particularly, this research focused on the exploration of faith in survival as depicted in Yann Martel's novel *Life of Pi.* Through an in-depth analysis of the journey of challenges confronted, this research aims to uncover deeper insights into saving faith in the journey of survival within the narrative framework of the novel. By looking at how saving faith is portrayed, the author aims to shed light on the broader subject of saving faith, resilience, and how it can change human nature, offering a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of survival in a literary context. In this study, the author aims to analyze the survival journey of the main character named Pi, who survives alone after a shipwreck. The novel has won a number of awards and grants since its publication in 2001. Some of the achievements of this book include: telling the incredible story of Piscine Molitor Patel, known as Pi, an Indian boy growing up in Pondicherry, India. Pi's father ran a zoo, and Pi developed an interest in animals and spirituality, exploring Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously

Based on the official website of *The Booker Prizes* (2002) it is written that Yann Martel's Life of Pi went on to become one of the biggest-selling novels in the prize's history after it was announced as the winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize. Life of Pi's win came in the first year the prize was sponsored by the Man Group, taking on its new name of the Man Booker Prize. In addition, another reason the writer chose this book is that previously the writer had read this novel several times, but still there were so many odd things written and really interesting to find out more about it. In short, it is written in this novel when Pi was 16 years old, his family decides to move to Canada, and they embark on a journey across the Pacific Ocean on a cargo ship with a variety of animals from their zoo in tow. However, tragedy strikes when the ship encounters a fierce storm and sinks. Pi is the sole human survivor, stranded on a lifeboat in the middle of the ocean. Pi's struggle for survival is compounded by the fact that he is not alone on the lifeboat; he shares it with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker, who was also on the ship. Pi faces the daunting challenges of having to survive. With no land in sight and limited supplies,

Pi must rely on his wits and ingenuity to endure. From finding food and water to building shelter and staying safe from storms, every day brings new obstacles to overcome. However, Pi's journey is about more than just physical survival. It is also a test of his mental strength and resilience. He must confront his deepest fears and doubts, harnessing his faith and inner strength to keep going even when all seems lost. Through it all, Pi learns the importance of survival skills – the ability to adapt, think creatively, and never give up hope. These skills aren't just useful in extreme situations like Pi's; they're essential for navigating life's challenges, big and small. As Pi's journey unfolds, we see the incredible power of the human spirit in the face of adversity. His story is a reminder that no matter how tough things get, with courage, determination, and a little bit of luck, anything is possible. And we will delve deeper into the theme of survival as seen in "Life of Pi" and explore in more detail the strategies, challenges, and the significance of survival skills, as well as how they can be applied in everyday life. Which can gain a deeper understanding of the strength and resilience of humans in facing all challenges that come their way."

1.2. Statement of the Problem

This research is intended to answer the following questions

1. How are the characters of Pi depicted in the novel?
2. How does Pi’s faith influence the survival strategies he uses throughout his journey?
3. What lessons can be learned from the survival experienced by Pi?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this research are:

1. To mention and also describe the characters of Pi which can be one of many factors in Pi's survival.
2. To explore and analyze how Pi's faith provides the motivation for survival that influences the survival strategies used by Pi.

3. To explain what lessons can be learned from survival experienced by Pi in the novel.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine how Yann Martel's Life of Pi outlines the concept of survival. This study looks at Pi and Parker's personalities in an effort to supply light on the nuanced relationship between their special characteristics that permit him to continue on through extraordinary enduring. Moreover, this study will look at the various characteristics and components that influenced Pi's survival during his expedition. The purpose of this research is to recognize how faith is a major part of these components to explain the larger setting of human survival, resilience, and strength. This research may have an important influence on our understanding of the importance of faith as an instrument of extreme survival and provide valuable applications to real-world survival events.

1.5. Methodology of the Study

In doing this research there were steps taken such as close reading, note-taking, character identification, thematic analysis, integration of findings, interpretation and conclusion. Close reading involves a detailed and focused analysis of the text, the writer paying attention to Pi's faith, his survival journey, and the events that demonstrate the role of faith throughout the novel. This method allows for a deep exploration of how faith is portrayed and how it influences Pi's survival. This method will be conducted by systematically examining relevant passages and scenes in the novel, noting descriptive language, dialogue, character development, and the development of Pi's faith. Next is note-taking, this method will be utilized to document significant observations and insights gathered during the close reading process. This includes jotting down important quotations, events related to Pi's faith, survival experiences, and the relationship between faith and survival. This method was taken to record textual evidence supporting the portrayal of faith and its influence on Pi's survival. The study also involved identifying textual evidence that illustrates Pi's faith and its contribution to his survival throughout the narrative. This includes Pi's beliefs, attitudes, decisions, and actions

that reflect the role of faith during his journey. Through careful analysis, specific events and textual evidence relevant to the portrayal of faith in Pi's survival will be identified and categorized. The writer conducts thematic analysis, which will be employed to explore the theme of faith in relation to survival. This involves identifying recurring themes related to survival, resilience, adaptability, and human nature throughout the text; these themes will be analysed to explain how faith influences Pi's actions, decisions, and perseverance throughout his journey of survival.

The findings from close reading, note-taking, textual identification, and thematic analysis will be integrated to develop a comprehensive understanding of Pi's survival journey. Connections between faith, survival strategies, and thematic elements will be synthesized to elucidate the complex dynamics at play within the narrative. The methodology will culminate in the interpretation of the findings, drawing conclusions about how faith contributes to Pi's survival and the broader implications for understanding between faith and human resilience. The study will conclude by highlighting the significance of the insights gained from the portrayal of faith in Pi's survival and its relevance to broader discussions on resilience, adaptability, and the human capacity for survival. This methodology employs a systematic approach to closely analyse the text, focusing on the portrayal of faith in Pi's survival journey in the novel.

1.6. Scope and Limitation

Scope: This study focuses on an in-depth analysis of the portrayal of faith in the survival journey in Yann Martel's *Life of Pi.* Specifically, it aims to analyse how Pi's faith is portrayed throughout the novel and how it influences his survival during his journey. The relationship between Pi and Richard Parker will also be analysed to understand how their reactions contribute to Pi's survival and strengthen his faith in facing adversity. This study will also explore the role of faith in relation to Pi's survival strategies, which includes psychological resilience, physical endurance and their adaptability. Lastly, this study will identify and explain the significance of faith in Pi's survival journey as portrayed in the novel.

Limitation: This study will be primarily limited to the portrayal of Pi's faith and its role in his survival journey, while Richard Parker will only be discussed insofar as he contributes to Pi's survival and the development of his faith. This study is limited to the context given by the novel and does not incorporate comparisons with real life survival stories or other fictional works. This study relies on interpretative analysis of the novel, and the result of the analysis are based on literary analysis only.

1.7. Status of the Study

This chapter will explain the status of the present writer's chosen literary work by reviewing previous studies related to the novel. Through the literature reviewed by the present, there have been several studies conducted on this novel among them are the following. According to Ramayani (2022) in her thesis titled "Post-Traumatic Disorder as Seen in PI Character Yann Martel *Life of Pi"* the main focus of the research is to describe the post-traumatic stress disorder experienced by Pi. She applies the psychoanalysis theory, especially theory of post-traumatic stress disorder, to explore Pi's traumatic experience at sea, which shapes his psychological state and behaviours. Next, Thorn (2015) writes in his article titled "Cannibalism, Communion, and Multifaith Sacrifice in the Novel and Film *Life of Pi"* describing the argument that Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* is a multicultural story of maternal cannibalism. According to Thorn, on one level the main character's cannibalism is sublimated in to a tale about a boy and four animals on a lifeboat; however, on a deeper level it's about a Hindu mother with a Christian sacrifice that answer her son's Islamic prayers. Thorn employs psychoanalytic theory to analyze the maternal cannibalism underlying Pi's tale. He further argues that discourse of oedipal and pre-oedipal desire is rejected as discounting the specificity of Pi's adult trauma. In another study, Mark Johnson (2021) in his article titled "Survival Instincts and Human Resilience in 'Life of Pi', it is shown that Pi used many strategies to survive his tough time. The theories used by Johnson are some evolutionary psychology and survival literature. This research focuses on the intellectual abilities possessed by Pi and how his knowledge and ingenuity can help

him survive. Similarly, Cole (2004) examines how narrative structure and spiritual belief intersect in *Life of Pi*, arguing that storytelling itself acts as a vital psychological strategy for overcoming physical trauma. While Cole's research emphasizes storytelling as a coping mechanism, the present study specifically integrates the concept of faith with practical survival traits—namely knowledge, conditioning, and the will to survive—to provide a comprehensive breakdown of Pi's endurance.

After exploring various research studies on the novel 'Life of Pi' by Yann Martel, the present writer found that the novel has been analyzed from psychological, religious, and survival perspectives. Furthermore, in examining the role of spiritual beliefs in narrative analysis, Saragih (2016) demonstrates how biblical allusions are utilized within literary and cinematic works to amplify themes of hope and psychological endurance during prolonged hardship. While Saragih's study explores faith and hope within the context of narrative endurance in King's work, the present study expands upon this framework by examining how faith specifically interacts with practical survival traits—namely knowledge, conditioning, and the will to survive—in Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. However, few studies specifically examine the role of faith as the driving force behind Pi's survival throughout his journey. Therefore, this study focuses on faith in surviving the journey**,** emphasizing how Pi's faith motivates, strengthens, and guides him in overcoming physical, psychological, and spiritual challenges. It is expected that this study will provide a different perspective and contribute to the existing body of literary studies on *Life of Pi.*

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into four chapters. Chapter I, Introduction, presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the research methodology, and the organization of the study. Chapter II, Review of Related Literature, discusses the theories and previous studies that provide the theoretical foundation for the research and support the

analysis. Chapter III, Findings and Discussion, presents the results of the analysis and discusses the findings in relation to the research questions and the theories presented in the previous chapter. Finally, Chapter IV, Conclusion, summarizes the findings of the study and presents the conclusion drawn from the analysis of faith in surviving the journey in Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*.

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