



## **DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE IN ANNE ENRIGHT'S NOVEL *THE GREEN ROAD* (2015)**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of determination to survive in novel *The Green Road* (2015) by Anne Enright. The issue of determination to survive refers to how the protagonist whose name is Constance reacts and makes efforts in facing life hardships. This analysis looks at the protagonist's two effort done by the character which are building strong self-acceptance and being independent. This analysis is related to life instinct theory proposed by Sigmund Freud. The uses of the theory is based on the interpretation of the text and context of the novel. This analysis also depends a lot on fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict) and setting to determine which part of the novel that will be used as the data. The result of the study reveals that the protagonist builds her self-acceptance and shows her independence in order to survive.

**Keywords:** *Determination, Survive, Life instinct.*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Human beings cannot be separated from problems, conflicts, and challenges because they are parts of the life of human beings. It is the problems and challenges that people face that make their life more meaningful. The harder and the more complicated problems people can overcome, the more meaningful lessons they may learn from them. The problems that come to people's life have different degrees. Some people may have simple problems while others may have complex ones. Some can be categorized as internal or external problems and some can be physical or emotional problems. Dysfunctional families, deadly diseases, toxic neighbourhoods, mental pressures, and workplace disputes are some of the examples of these problems. People also have different ways and attitudes in facing their problems. There are people who give up easily when experiencing life's hardships hence they cannot make remarkable achievements. As a result, their lives are often full of regrets and hopelessness. However, there are also people who are

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strong and persistent in coping with their life problems. No matter how difficult the problems that come to their life, those brave people are determined to face them. Their strong determination is in fact, the most important aspect that will help them to survive.

Self-acceptance and independence are two qualities that people should have when they are determined to survive. Self-acceptance is an ability of human beings to unconditionally accept themselves. Carson (2006) argues that the absence of ability to unconditionally accept oneself especially in people with physical shortcomings can lead them to a variety of emotional difficulties, including uncontrolled anger and depression. According to Turnbull (1985), independence is a determination that people make to choose to live with their own preferences. Thus, when people can accept themselves and be independent, they are driven by instinct which Sigmund Freud (1961) calls life instinct. He argues this instinct leads people to maintain their lives, creates pleasures, and helps people to be strong and persistent.

Interestingly, family can be one of the potential sources of the problems. Misunderstandings because of lack of communication can trigger disputes within family members. The situation gets worse if none are willing to fix it. Distance between family members become even further away. There is no harmony and affection there. The victims are the family members themselves especially the children. In addition to dysfunctional family, suffering from a disease can also become one of the other problems that people experience. The situation can be worse if a person has a terminal disease such as cancer. One of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in women is breast cancer (BC). It is a deadly disease, killing millions of women every year around the world including Europe. People with determination to survive will be able overcome all the problems in their life.

The phenomenons of people who have determination to survive not only can be found in reality but also in literary works such as poems, novels, and dramas. The issue of determination to survive is interesting to be analysed. As a matter of fact, as long as someone is alive he or she will have the possibility to face some hardships. Thus, people should not blame themselves and surrender in facing problems in their life. This analysis focuses on a novel that was written by Anne Enright entitled *The Green Road* (2015). In this analysis, determination to survive refers to the ways the protagonist whose name is Constance reacts and makes efforts in facing many problems in her life. This analysis exposes how bravely she can deal with her internal and external conflicts in order to survive.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

The analysis of novel *The Green Road* (2015) by Anne Enright is done through text and context based interpretation. It is done by analyzing fictional devices such as characters, plot (conflicts) and setting. These devices are connected one another and give contribution to reveal the meaning of the novel. This analysis use the concept of life instinct by Sigmund Freud.

## C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the issue of determination to survive in Anne Enright's novel *The Green Road* (2015). The character that reflected the issue of determination to survive is Constance. The setting of the novel is Ireland when experiencing its economy booming. According to Anwar (2016, 2019) the initiative to correspond to the outside world will increase as the result of globalisation. Therefore, some of the characters leave Ireland and prefer to live in other countries which are Ireland, New York, and Mali. This condition makes their lack of communication problem become worse. In this analysis, determination to survive refers to the ways the protagonist reacts and makes efforts to overcome many problems in her life. In other words, it explores how strength her determination to face her internal and external conflicts. The protagonist's determination to survive can be seen through the two efforts done by the character: building self-acceptance and being independent.

### 2.1 Building Self-Acceptance

Self-acceptance is an ability human beings have to unconditionally accept themselves. It is one of the points to show that Constance has a strong determination to survive. She accepts herself without any regret and hopelessness even though she has many problems that come to her life. The conflicts that she experiences are internal and external conflicts. Dysfunctional family and breast cancer are two of the conditions that she never gives up and blames.

#### 2.1.1 Positive Self-Consideration

Constance has positive self-consideration toward herself. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“It was a bitter thought, but the blouse she put on that morning was her last good blouse and Constance had to add a scarf to hide the place where the buttons gaped over breasts that had done their time.

*They've done their time*, she thought, closing the mirror on the wardrobe door. She would do.” (p.60)

From the quotation above it can be seen that the protagonist accepts her current condition patiently even though she has breast cancer which is a terminal disease. She does not blame herself or anyone else because she positive consideration toward herself. She also does not try to do bad things for herself such as try to commit suicide due to the problems of her life. The utterance “*They've done their time*” shows she accept herself and her life. She has done many things in her life, thus she has no regrets. The utterance “*It was a bitter thought*” points out that as a human being, of course, she also experiences anxiety and fear in that situation. She gets into a situation where her life might end in a short time because of breast cancer which undermines her healthy. However, that situation does not cause her

to hate herself and want to endanger her life. It can be seen that she can defeat her death instinct. The utterance “*She would do*” shows that the protagonist acknowledges she has shortcoming, however, she does not feel discouraged to continue her life. She has powerful determination to maintain her life, thus, she struggles for it. Instead of being discouraged by the problems, the protagonist sees it as a motivation to struggle in her life. This is in accordance with Freud (1961) who argues that life instinct leads people to be immune to external influences.

### 2.1.2 Self-Confidence

The protagonist believes in her own ability that leads her to be an optimistic person. Even though her life is full of suffering and pains, she still has hopes in her mind and soul. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“‘How is all that?’ said Dessie a couple of years later. And Constance just laughed. ‘How is all that?’ she mocked. And then, ‘It’s all fine.’ Because it was true. It was fine. Her body had been so clever and self-healing. It had been so good to her, and willing to go again.” (p. 62)

From the quotation above it can be revealed that the protagonist is a person who has self-confidence about her ability in coping with life hardships. She believes in herself no matter what kind of problems she faces. The sentence “*Her body had been so clever and self-healing*” shows that she is a strong person that believes she can overcome her problems. It leads her to be an optimistic person who often thinks positively. She does not drag herself into sadness and bad thoughts which only make things worse. The utterance “*It’s all fine*” shows that she never thinks that the problems are stronger than herself to beat because she has determination to face them all. She does not create her life problems become the reasons to complain about her life, instead, she uses them as lessons to learn from. By facing it, she can be a better human being. Her life instinct helps her to be strong and to survive in facing the hardship of life. Similarly, Freud (1961) explains that human beings’ willingness to be persistent to survive and retains their importance lead by the life instinct.

### 2.1.3 Self-Love

The protagonist loves herself even though she has many life hardships that cause her to have so much pain physically and mentally. She is diagnosed as having breast cancer which is a terminal disease. She has strong determination to cure her breast cancer by going to the hospital. This is in line with Freud’s (1961) argumentation in his book, he argues that life will be preserved for long time by the life instinct. Therefore, she does not just stay still to wait for her death which shows the fact, she can bring out her life instinct more than death instinct in her life. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“There was no way of telling how long each woman would spend in the room across the corridor. A few came out and headed straight for the exit, but if a woman in a white coat came out first, then they followed the big brown envelope she held to join a new queue on a banquette further down the way. These women wore hospital gowns that gaped at the back and carried their tops and coats in a plastic shopping basket which they set on the ground in front of them. Some of them were quite young. Constance wasn’t the youngest there that morning, not by any means.” (p. 62)

From the quotation above it can be seen that the setting is in a hospital. The protagonist is determined to cure breast cancer in her body to survive. She does not let herself suffer because of breast cancer which can lead her to the end of her life. She realizes that there are always hopes in a bad situation even though it is difficult to go out of it. For her, her health is precious because with a healthy body she can do anything that she wants to do in her life. In addition, it also shows that she appreciates her life. Although she has a terminal disease, she never becomes discouraged and frustrated that assumes death is the only way to end her suffering. She is craving to have a healthy body because she knows she has big responsibilities toward herself. Another reason is she struggles to be healthy because she has family to protect for. Struggling to keep the body healthy is one of the ways human beings show their love to their lives. As a fact, her life is not for her self but also her family members. She is a strong and persistent person who always struggles to achieve her goals which one of them is to be a healthy person.

Just as much Constance’s love toward her own self, she also loves her dysfunctional family. Although, she never receives any kind of love and affection from her family members, she always values their presence around her and feels comfortable to be with them. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“All Constance wanted to do was to make people happy. Why was it her job to fix them? Not one of the people she cared so much about knew where she was” (p. 77)

The quotation above reveals that the protagonist has a genuine heart and a kind soul. She wants people around her to live happily. The utterance “*Not one of the people she cared so much about knew where she was*” shows that she is in fact very lonely, because her parents and her siblings rarely pay attention to her. She has immature parents because her parents are not good at parenting. Both of her parents are passive; her father is an irresponsible person and her mother is a childish woman. In addition, her siblings do not care about her either. Nonetheless, the protagonist still loves her family purely from the bottom of her heart. She does not expect the people around her to do the same thing to her. She is also not angry at the people who do not know what problems she experiences in her life. She also has lots of life hardships but she does not demand people to care about her. She

even keeps that fact as a secret from her mother because she does not want her mother to worry about her. She does not want to be pitied by other people. One of the reasons she struggles to survive is her family. Her life instinct motivates her to be strong in her life.

#### 2.1.4 Self-Understanding

Constance's self-awareness motivates her to understand herself well. She can react positively to face all the problems that come to her. Having experiences in overcoming her life hardships, she is clever enough to know what is good and bad for her. She also knows what things can make her happy and sad. She can think about what she wants, and how to *get* them, most of *the* time. If there are things that will not make her enjoy her life, she is quick to realize that she must do something else to fix it. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“Eileen Foley, Martha Hingerty, Lauren O’Dea. When they finished their Leaving cert they all went up to Dublin together, while Constance stayed back a year to repeat her exams and work behind the counter in the Medical Hall. And it was the loneliest year of her life. Constance was supposed to study Pharmacy, but she couldn’t get into Pharmacy, and when she failed for a second time there was much weeping and gnashing of teeth in Ardeevin. Her uncle Bart finally took pity on her and swung her a job in a big chemist’s on Grafton Street so she should learn about the business side of things before coming back home. But Constance had no intention of coming back to the Medical Hall. Eileen Foley was saving for New York and, at nineteen, Constance was going there too.” (p. 68)

The quotation above reflects that the protagonist has the ability to recognize her self-will. The sentence “*Constance was supposed to study Pharmacy, but she couldn’t get into Pharmacy, and when she failed for a second time there was much weeping and gnashing of teeth in Ardeevin*” shows that her family members force her to study pharmacy which is her other external conflicts. Her extended family members are successful people in the medical field. Therefore, she has to be like them also. However, studying pharmacy is not her passion. As a devoted child, she tries to fulfil the demands of her parents. However, there is no good result when she is doing what she dislikes. She suffers a lot because of this terrible situation. She also feels lonely because no one cares about what she feels inside. She has no family and friends to share her thoughts with and talk to about her life hardship. Not being able to stand the situation that ruins her happiness, she chooses to fix that condition and find out her own happiness. According to Freud (1961), having life instinct will not make someone drown in his or her difficulties but it will keep them away from human being’s life. Her life instinct leads her to find out the happiness in her life. She is determined to be happy by being who she really is and

what she wants to be. It does not mean she gives up on the situation. She has the right to enjoy her life. Therefore, her choice is to be happy and free. Her life instincts lead her to choose her own happiness.

The protagonist accepts the fact that she is the only one her family can rely on. In her dysfunctional family, there are always problems that come and go whether they are from her parents or her siblings. Even though her family contacts her just in their crisis moments, she still helps them to solve their problems. This reflects that Constance helps people sincerely. Therefore, her family members come to her in the first place when they face life hardships. It can be seen from the following quotation:

“She went out for her walk,’ said Emmet. ‘What time is it there anyway?’ Emmet looked at his mobile. ‘It’s nearly five,’ he said. ‘Listen I’ll catch her in a bit,’ said Bart. ‘I’ll ring at seven.’ Emmet put down the phone. ‘Should we ring Constance?’ he said. (p. 202)

The quotation above reveals that she is the one who often solves the problem in her family. Her family members depend on her way too much because she is strong and persistent that leads by her life instinct. The setting is in the dusk when her mother has not arrived at home which creates a tense atmosphere. This problem creates more external conflict for her. It is the first time her siblings worry about their mother because for all the time she is the only caregiver to their mother. The utterance “*‘Should we ring Constance?’*” shows that she is the one that can be relied on and can overcome the problems. It also can be seen that her siblings do not have the ability to solve the problems because they often give up easily in facing life hardships. She has critical thinking that helps her to find solutions to the problems. She can also think of the risks of her decision.

The following is another quotation that supports the idea that the protagonist is the only one her family can rely on. She has been taking care of her parents since she was young. Until she has her own family, she is the only child who cares about her childish mother. She is the only one devoted child that her parents have. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“She would stare for a moment, as though wondering who these strange children were. After which brief confusion, she would swivel and slam back up to bed. Ten minutes later, or twenty minutes, or half an hour, the door would creak open and her small voice come out of it saying, ‘Constance?’” (p. 15)

From the quotation above it can be seen that the character is the one who handles everything in her family. The bad situation in her dysfunctional family makes the protagonist to become a mother and father figure for her younger siblings. Her mother is not an appropriate mother figure that is pointed by the sentence “*She would stare for a moment, as though wondering who these strange children were*”.

She does not give affection to her children, therefore she does not have close bond with them. Her mother is a daughter of a rich person who does not know how to raise a child properly. She just wants to be loved and cared for but she rarely gives affection and attention to others. Her father also does not care about his family. Therefore, in her parents' old age, their children except the protagonist do not show their affection to them either. Even though there are four kids in the family, the protagonist is the only one who has willingness to take care of her parents. The other kids do not want to keep in touch with them. Therefore, they leave their home and go to other countries. Her siblings blame their parents especially on their mother for their bad and uncomfortable living conditions, they get bad impacts from their dysfunctional families. They tend to give up easily when they experience the hardship of life. Unlike her siblings, the protagonist has determination to survive because she appreciates her life and everything in it. Both of the quotations above are in line with Freud (1961) who argues that life instincts are connected with the difficulties which continually creating oppression that will create joy when people are able to overcome them.

### 2.1.5 Gratitude

She is grateful for her life even though she has many problems. She realizes that many people have more difficult life hardships than her. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“Constance McGrath sat on the bed where the starched sheet was folded over, feeling abandoned and small. Because she has everything, more than everything, her life was overflowing and Margaret Dolan had so little to call her own. Constance wanted to put her head through the curtain and look her in the eye to say what? “ I am sorry for your trouble. Would you like a lift home?” (p. 80)

The quotation above reveals that the protagonist is grateful for her life. The setting is in a hospital cubicle. The utterance “*feeling abandoned and small*” shows that she feels ashamed if she gives up because of the problems that are nothing to compare with others. This realization motivates her to work harder in order to survive. This is related to Freud (1961) who argues that life instinct leads people to be persistent and retains their significance. In other words, Constance never sees the challenges as a threat that will discourage her to continue her life. She does not complain about the problems that she has in her life. The utterance “*Because she has everything, more than everything, her life was overflowing*” shows that she accepts her life and what she has in it. She has many more than other people may not have. Even though she has a dysfunctional family but she still has a family. She still has a husband and three children. Also, her breast cancer can still be cured. Therefore, when she sees her new friend, Margaret Dolan, her new friend that she meets in the hospital, she realizes that there are people who are not as fortunate as her. She still has her mother, her siblings, her husband, and her children. Compared



to her, there are still many people who have worse life problems. This concludes that Constance is able to see the bright sight of her problems.

To conclude, building self-acceptance is one of the essential things to show Constance has strong determination to survive. The character and setting are very helpful to disclose how she reacts and makes effort in order to survive. The internal and external conflicts that experienced by the character also give the contribution to uncover this issue. Her determination to survive is strong because life is a very precious thing for her. She wants to be cured from her breast cancer and has a harmonious family. By accepting her-self, it leads her to be grateful. She has no regret because she loves everything that she has in her life. She becomes stronger to face her life hardship because she builds her-self acceptance.

## **2.2 Being Independent**

People who are independent have freedom to choose and control their life. They do not depend on other people because they can handle their own life. It is also evidenced in Constance. She has been an independent woman since she was young. She already had a job in her uncle's store when she was at a young age. After that, she also works in Dublin far from her family. Because of the situations of her problematic family, she is urged to be an independent person. She has different ways and attitudes in facing the problems. She is strong and persistent in coping with her problems. The other family members give up easily when they get the problem because they let their death instinct control themselves.

### **2.2.1 Independence**

The independence that Constance has from childhood leads her to be a self-sufficient woman when she becomes an adult. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“No one knew she was here. Not Dessie, who had clearly forgotten what day it was. Not her mother. Not her friends who were all scattered now. Eileen in America, Martha Hingerty in London, and Lauren in Strasbourg – the last to go. They were so rarely home. By the time Constance caught up with them, all her news had gone stale.” (p.67)

The quotation above reflects that she is a very independent person in living her life. The setting is in a hospital to check her breast cancer and she is alone. The sentences “*No one knew she was here.*” shows that she does not depend on others. In dealing with her life hardships she only relies on herself. She can deal with life hardships by herself because she has been trained for it since she is a child. She faces her life hardships patiently and strongly. She only needs herself to help her life and to maintain it. It depends on how big is her effort to survive. She realizes that there is no one that can help her more than herself. Not all people can do this, even more, the problem which is experienced by the protagonist is the big one. Even though she needs people to support her, she never blames those people who do not care

about her. She does not spoil herself and asks for mercy from others. Through her independence, she becomes strong and brave in living her life. It drives by the life instinct that leads her to be strong and survive in her life. This is evidenced in Freud's argumentation in his book (1961), in which he argues that life instinct preserve life itself for a comparatively long period. In addition, the name of the protagonist which is 'Constance' is a symbol which shows she is a constant person who does not become weak because of the problems that come to her life.

### 2.2.2 Ability to Make Decisions

In her condition, she has been required to be able to decide the best thing to do since she was young. Therefore, she can make her decision even though in an emergency situation. Because she is able to understand the situation, she knows what is the best thing to do. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"It seemed to Hanna her mother might stop eating or, if she was that hungry, she might take her plate and go into another room in order to cry, but this did not occur to her mother, clearly, and she sat there, eating and crying at the same time. Much crying, little eating. There was more work with the tissue, which was now in shreds. It was awful. The pain was awful. Her mother juddering and sputtering, with the carrots falling from her mouth in little. Constance, who was the eldest, bossed them all quietly about and they carried plates and cups past their mother, as she dripped, one way or the other, into her own food. lumps and piles." (p. 13)

The quotation above shows that the setting is in the dining room in her parent's house. The utterance "*she sat there, eating and crying at the same time. Much crying, little eating*" shows that there is something wrong with her mother's psyche. Her mother is an immature person. When she has problems in her life she just starts crying and does not do anything. Her mother does not want her brother, Dan, to be a priest. However, she cannot do anything. Therefore her mother acts like a child in order to be pitied by the others. Even though her mother acts like that, the protagonist does not hate her mother or just left her mother alone. The utterance "*Constance, who was the eldest, bossed them all quietly about and they carried plates and cups past their mother*" shows that the protagonist is a wise person. She does not want her mother to look foolish in front of her younger siblings. She does not want her younger sibling to know about the problem that her family faces at that time. She does that also to consider the growth of her younger siblings since they are still kids that have the development with their psyche. She takes responsibility to take care of her mother and her sibling. It also shows that she has the charisma of the eldest sister. Therefore, her siblings obey what she commands to them.

Another quotation that supports the protagonist' ability to decide what is the best thing to do at a certain time is in the following quotation:

“After that, their mother went to bed and Constance had to stay at home, instead of getting the bus back to Dublin and she was furious with Dan: she bashed about doing the dishes while he went up to his room and read his books and their mother lay behind her closed door, and on Monday their father went out to Boolavaun and came back home in the evening, and had no opinions that anyone could discern.” ( p.14)

From the quotation above it can be seen that the protagonist knows about her priority in life. The utterance “*Constance had to stay at home, instead of getting the bus back to Dublin*” shows that she realizes that her family needs her in that situation. If she goes back to Dublin then the problems in her house will be even worse. There are no other children to take care of family members. The utterance “*she was furious with Dan*” shows that she can deliver her thoughts toward the other. She says that what her brother does is wrong. Not like her father and mother, she has the intention to find the solutions and solve the problem. The utterance “*their mother lay behind her closed door*” shows that the protagonist’s mother repressed her feeling about the problem. Her mother wants to prevent her son’s desire however she does not do anything. Thus, she just lays and cries in her bedroom. In line with that, her father does not do anything to solve the problem. The utterance “*and on Monday their father went out to Boolavaun and*”. It can be concluded that her family has lacked communication. The only person who brave to communicate about the problem in the family is the protagonist. Both of the quotations above are in line with Freud (1961) who argues that the life instincts are related with the difficulties which continually creating oppression that will create joy when people are able to overcome them.

### 2.2.3 Ability to Solve Problems

The protagonist’s decision in solving the problems usually brings out good results. It can be said that she can handle her life and her problem. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“A couple of years ago, Constance got her wisdom teeth out, and she must have said it a hundred times, she needed a lift home because they wouldn’t let you drive after the sedation. When the day came Dessie said, ‘What?’ He said he would rearrange everything, he would do it right away, and he started panicking and going through bits of paper until Constance told him not to bother. She just drove herself over there, and got the teeth out without the drugs. It was painful all right, but not exactly a disaster. ‘I like to know where I am,’ she said to the dentist, who promised to stuff her with local anaesthetic. Then she got up out of the chair, her jaw

banging like a gong, and she got into the car, and drove back home.” (p.74)

From the quotation above it can be seen that Constance overcomes the problem with her maturity in mind and soul. The utterance “*When the day came Dessie said, ‘What?’*” shows her husband also does not really care about her. Her husband often forgets things that are needed by the protagonist. She already reminds him many times to accompany her to go to the hospital however her husband still forgets about it. The sentence “*She just drove herself over there, and got the teeth out without the drugs*” shows that she is a brave person. She is really different from her husband in facing the problems. She can face the problems calmly while her husband always exaggerates them. This condition motivates the protagonist to be more independent because there is still no one she can rely on. The utterance “*Constance told him not to bother*” points out the protagonist is a patient and forgiving person. She does not become angry or even blames the other person. She is more concerned with how she can overcome the problems.

The following quotation is another quotation that supports the protagonist can overcome the problems. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“We have to call the Guards,’ said Constance. Dessie waved his mobile. ‘I’ll try Maguire,’ he said and made a call. He listened a moment and said, ‘Christmas.’ ‘Oh for goodness sake,’ said Dan, who picked up the house phone and just dialed 999.” (p. 210)

The quotation above shows that the protagonist can think about how to solve the problem. She can think logically even in an emergency condition. It is very different from other characters who get panic when their mother is missing. The setting is on Christmas evening and the atmosphere is tense. Her siblings are panicking since they think there is no one that can find their mother on Christmas evening. Most of the people are having a holiday and enjoying their nights at home. Thus, they cannot ask the people around them. The utterance “*We have to call the Guards*” is coming out from the protagonist. It can be seen that the protagonist has critical thinking that helps her to know how to solve the problem. She is a woman who can use her mind even in difficult times. Her experiences in coping with all problems in her life help her to be a large-minded person. She learns from all of the hardships that she gets.

The protagonist struggles to fix problems within her family members. She realizes that the problems will get worse from time to time if none are willing to fix the problems. The lack of communication between her family members cause them to have bad relationship. This situation lasts for so long because her siblings who are in other countries do not want to come back home in order to fix it. The protagonist does not want this problem to last long and therefore she wants all family members to be reunited. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“She rang Constance to say, ‘What the fuck?’

‘Oh it’s you,’ said Constance, because Hanna never rang home.  
‘The fuck?’ said Hanna, and Constance said, ‘Don’t ask.’ ‘It’s not true, is it?’ said Hanna.  
‘Oh, I don’t know,’ said Constance. ‘It’s not true, no. She’s just getting old.’  
‘Any word from Dan?’  
‘Full house this year. He’s coming home.’” (p.151)

From the quotation above it can be seen that the protagonist tries to fix the problems in her family. The utterance *‘It’s not true, no. She’s just getting old.’* shows that she struggle to fix her family's tense atmosphere. She calmly faces her panicked sister, Hanna. In fact, her sister's emotion is unstable which can lead her to do self-injury. It pays off, She is no longer uses bad vocabularies which shows that she can endure her anxiety. Her calm ways of dealing with this problem are one of the aspects that help her to get out of the problems in her life. The sentence *“Full house this year. He’s coming home.”* shows that she is trying to gather her family and fix the problems that her family experiences for a long time. All of the quotations above are in line with Freud (1961) who argues that the life instincts closely related with the problems which disturb human beings happiness that will create pleasure when people are able to solve them.

#### 2.2.4 Initiatives

The protagonist also has lots of initiatives, and that aspect of her helps her in facing life problems. These initiatives are a reflection of her self-awareness. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“There was no dishwasher in Ardeevin so the next day Constance was at the sink non-stop, finding crockery, dipping through soaking pans and greasy dishes to prise out a bowl for the carrots, another side plate, a serving spoon. Hanna was too miserable to help and Emmet did not see the need for it – it was like he had a different set of eyes. So it was her and Dan, mostly, but Dan did not do dishes, Dan did food.” (p.183)

The quotation above reveals that Constance can understand the situation that happens around her. She does not wait for someone to do something else. She has the initiative to do the work that she can do. The quotation above also shows that she does not complain about the circumstances of her family. The sentence *“Hanna was too miserable to help and Emmet did not see the need for it”* shows that she can understand every member's concern and problem in her life. Hanna is a depressed young mother because she cannot seize her dream to be an actress. While Emmet is just a selfish brother that hates his mother. The utterance *“and Dan, mostly, but Dan did not do dishes, Dan did food.”* shows that she respects Dan even though he is younger than her. At least he does his best in making food. She

struggles to make her family comfortable at home. Thus, they can unite together like the past when they were still at home. They have to omit the distance between them and start having communication. She also concerns about changing her mother's mind to sell the house. Even though there is no happiness in that house, she believes and still sees that they still have a good memory in it. This is related with Freud (1961) who explains that life instinct leads people to be determined to survive and retains their meaning.

In conclusion, being independent is also another essential things to show Constance's powerful determination to survive. The setting plays a crucial role in revealing the meaning of the issue. In addition, the conflicts that she faces in her life also give the contribution to disclose the meaning from the novel. Her independence helps her to survive. She can overcome her life problems by herself. She does not depend her life with someone else.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

A novel entitled *The Green Road* (2015) by Anne Enright reflects the issue of determination to survive. Text-based and context-based interpretation play the crucial role in uncovering the issue of determination to survive. This analysis deals with the concept of life instinct by Sigmund Freud. In this analysis, determination to survive refers to the ways one reacts and makes efforts in facing many problems in his or her life. It is represented by the protagonist whose name is Constance. It exposes how strength her will to overcome her internal and external conflicts to survive. She is the eldest child in her family. She has many problems in her life which are dysfunctional family and suffering from breast cancer. Those problems lead her to experience internal and external conflicts. Even though she experiences many hardships of life, she has strong determination to survive. She never gives up in her life. The issue of determination to survive is reflected by Constance that can be seen from the ways she accepts her self and becomes independent in facing hardship in order to survive.

In conclusion, the character in the novel reveals that when one realizes the potential of being blessed by life instinct she or he will survive. This is in line with Freud's (1961) argumentation in his book, he argues that life instinct leads human being to perpetuate his or her life. It will always lead people to survive no matter how difficult the problems that come to their life. The protagonist's determination to survive can be seen through her two efforts which are building self acceptance and being independent. The protagonist can overcome all of problems that come to her life. She has strong desires to maintain her life, she searches for her pleasure, she is strong and persistent. She never gives up even though she has many problems in her life.

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