A STUDY ON MORRIE’S STRUGGLE TO MAKE HIS LIFE USEFUL TO OTHERS IN “TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE” NOVEL BY MITCH ALBOM

THESIS

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This thesis is submitted to fulfill one of the requirements to achieve Sarjana Degree in English Education

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This thesis was defended in front of the examiners of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of University of Muhammadiyah Malang and accepted as one of the requirements to achieve Sarjana Degree in English Education on February 7, 2013.

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Appendix 1

Mitch Albom Biography, the Writer of the Novel
“Tuesdays with Morrie”

Mitch Albom is the author of the international bestseller The Five People You Meet in Heaven as well as six other books. A nationally syndicated columnist for the Detroit Free Press and a nationally syndicated radio host for ABC and WJR-AM, Albom has, for ever a decade, been named top sports columnist in the nation by the Sport Editors of America, the highest honor in the field. A panelist on ESPN’s Sports Reporters, Albom also regularly serves as commentator for that network. He serves on numerous charitable boards and has founded two charities in metropolitan Detroit: The Dream Fund, which helps underprivileged youth study the arts, and A Time to Help, a monthly volunteer program. He lives with his wife, Janine, in Michigan.

Appendix 2

Synopsis of the novel entitled “Tuesdays with Morrie”
“Tuesdays with Morrie” is the final lesson between a college professor, Morrie, and one of his long lost students and the author of the book, Mitch Albom. After seeing his professor in an interview on the show "Nightline," Mitch is reminded of a promise he made sixteen years ago to keep in touch with him. Now, Morrie infected ALS, Morrie does not have much time left, and Mitch recognizes this fact. Mitch decides to go from Michigan to Massachusetts to meet with his professor. This meeting goes well and affects Mitch and Morrie so much that they meet for the next fourteen consecutive Tuesdays, up until Morrie passes away.

During these meetings, they discuss a different topic about life. These topics make up the content of the book and include death, love, culture, marriage, regret and the world we live in, among many others. The reader feels many emotions while reading this book, like happiness to sadness. It makes the reader think about their own life and ponder aging, forgiveness, family, compassion, and mentors in life, just as Mitch Albom does during the course of the book.

Only someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.

Mitch Albom cannot meet his professor, but he had the second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.
APPENDIX 3

1. Morrie did not have enough time

Morrie’s doctor guessed he had two years left. Morrie knew it was less (Page 10. Line 11-12)

“...Let’s face, I can’t go shopping, I can’t take care of the bank accounts, I can’t take off the garbage. But, I can sit here with my dwindling days and look at why I think is important in life. I
have both the time – and the reason – to do that.” (Page 53. Line 25-29)

Morrie said to Mitch, “... because I know my time is almost done, I drawn to nature like I’m seeing it for the first time.” (Page 150. Line 2-3)

I mourn my dwindling time, but I cheriss the chance it gives me to make things right.” (Page 167. Line 17-18)

It’s only horrible if you see it that way.” Morrie said. “It’s horrible to watch my body slowly wilt away to nothing. But it’s also wonderful because of all the time I get to say good bye.” (Page 57. Line 17-20)

2. Morrie did not want his life useless

“You’re coming to visit me.” He said, less a question than statement. Well, could I? How about Tuesday? Tuesday would be good, I said. (Page 45. Line 10-13)

“We are Tuesday people,” he said. Tuesday people, I repeat. (Page 52. Line 6-7)

“For me, living means I can be responsive to the other person. It means I can slow my emotions and my feelings.” “So you will come back next Tuesday?” he whispered. (Page 162. Line 1-3)

“Just come and talk. Make it a Tuesday. You always come on Tuesday.” We’re Tuesday people.
“Right. Tuesday people. Come to talk then.” (Page 169. Line 10-13)

He was intent on proving that the word “dying” was not synonymous with “useless.” (Page 12. Line 34-35)
... His philosophy was that death was not embarrassing...(Page 21. Line 8-9)

“Ted, ” he said, “When all this started, I ask myself. ’Am I going to withdraw from the world, like most people do, or I’m going to live?’ I decided I’m going to live – or at least try to live – the way I want with dignity, with courage, with humour, with composure.” (Page 21. Line 16-20)

“Well, I have to look at life uniquely now. Let’s face, I can’t go shopping, I can’t take care of the bank accounts, I can’t take out the garbage. But I can sit here with my dwindling days and look
at what I think is important in life. I have both the time – and the reason – to do that. (Page 49-50. Line 25-4)

“Ted, this disease is knocking at my spirit. It’ll we get my body. It will not get my spirit.” (Page 163. Line 15-17)

“... The way you get caring into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.” (Page 43. Line 23-26)

3. Morrie wanted to give bright messages

He had discussion groups about dying, what it really meant, how societies had always been afraid of it without necessarily understanding it. he told his friends that if they really wanted to help him, they would treat him noteworthy sympathy but with visits, phone calls, a sharing of their problems-the way they always shared their problems, because Morrie had always a wonderful listener. (Page 11-12. Line 24-31)

Morrie had a better idea. He made some calls. He chose a date. And on a cold Sunday afternoon, he was joined in his home by a small group of friends and family for a “living funeral” (Page 12. Line 45-48)


“The truth is, Mitch,” he said, “Once you learn how to die, you learn how to life.” (Page 82. Line 7-8)

“Of course I do. But giving to other people is what makes me feel alive. Not my car or my house.” (Page 128. Line 8-9)

” Death ends a life, not a relationship.”(Page 174. Line 11)

“... the way you get caring into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.” (Page 43. Line 23-26)

“The truth is, Mitch,” he said, “Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live.”

“The thing you spend so much time on – all this work you do – might not seem as important. You might have to make room for
“Some more spiritual things,” said Morrie to Mitch. (Page 84. Line 1-3)

Morrie said, “Maybe, you’re right. Maybe I shouldn’t care. After all, I won’t be around to see how it all turns out.” (Page 53. Line )

It’s only horrible if you see it that way.” Morrie said. “It’s horrible to watch my body slowly wilt away to nothing. But it’s also wonderful because of all the time I get to say good bye.” (Page 57. Line 17-20)

“Everyone knows they’re going to die,” he said again, “but nobody believes it. If we did, we would do things differently.”(Page 81,83)

“Everyone knows they’re going to die,” he said again, “but nobody believes it. If we did, we would do things differently” (Page 81. Line 8-10)

The most things in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let come in. (Page 52. Line 15)

“You know how I always interpreted that? These were people so hungry for love that they were accepting substitutes.”(Page 125. Line 34-35)

4. Moral values for Morrie’s Family;

a. Loving

“The fact is, there is no foundation, no secure ground, upon which people may stand if it isn’t the family. It’s become quite clear to me as I’ve been sick. If you don’t have the support and love and caring and concern that you get from a family, you don’t have much at all. Love is so supremely important...” (Page 91. Line 18-23)

... Sure, people would come visit, friends, associates, but its not the same as having someone who will not leave. It’s not the same as having someone whom you know has an eye on you, is watching you the whole time. (Page 92. Line 5-9)

“...This is part of what a family is about no just love, but letting others know there’s someone who is watching out for them...” (Page 02. Line 10-12)

“You start making money a God. It is all part of this culture.” (Page 154. Line 19-20)
“This is part of what a family is about, no, just love, but letting others know there’s someone who is watching out for them…..” “Nothing else will give you that. Not money. Not fame.” (Page 92)

“The problem, Mitch, is we don’t believe that we are as much alike as we are. Whites and blacks, Catholics and Protestants, men and women. If we saw each other as more alike we might be very eager to join in one big human family in this world, and to care about that family the way we care about our own.” (Page 156. Line 20-25)

b. Togetherness

“For me, living means I can be responsive to the other person. It means I can slow my emotions and my feelings.”
“So you will come back next Tuesday?” he whispered. (Page 162. Line 1-3)

“Just come and talk. Make it a Tuesday. You always come on Tuesday.”
We’re Tuesday people.
“Right. Tuesday people. Come to talk then.”(Page 169. Line 10-13)

5. Moral values for Morrie’s Friends

a. Togetherness

“He told to his friends that if they really wanted to help him, they would treat him not with sympathy but with visits, phone calls, a sharing of their problems…”(Page 12. Line 26-29)

Accept what you are able to do and what you are not able to do; Accept the past as past without denying it or discarding it; learn to forgive yourself and to forgive others; Don’t assume that it’s to late to get involved. (Page 18. Line 13-17)

” The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in.” (Page 52. Line 14-15)

It’s only horrible if you see it that way.” Morrie said. “It’s horrible to watch my body slowly wilt away to nothing. But it’s also wonderful because of all the time I get to say good bye.” (Page 57. Line 17-20)

“I am talking to you. I am thinking about you.” (Page 136. Line 1)

b. Dissatisfaction
“You start making money a God. It is all part of this culture.” (Page 154. Line 19-20)


“In the beginning of life, when we are infants, we need others to survive, right? And the end of life, when you get like me you need others to survive, right?” (Page 157. Line 10-12)

I’m listing all the time, so they have to hold me. (Page 162. Line 11)

He told Koppel he wanted to die with serenity. He sahre his latest aphorism: “Don’t let go too soon, but don’t hang on too long.” (Page 162. Line 14-16)

“... love each other or die” (Page 163. Line 7)

“That’s what we’re all looking for. A certain peace with the idea of dying. If we know, in the end, that we can ultimately have that peace with dying, then we can finally do the really hard thing.” (Page 173. Line 7-10)

” Death ends a life, not a relationship.”(Page 174. Line 11)

The most important thing in life is to learn how to give love, and to let it come in. (Page 52. Line 14-15)

“... We are too involved in materialistic things, and they don’t satisfy us...” said Morrie (Page 84. Line 12)

“...don’t cling to things, because everything is impermanent.”(Page 103. Line 16-17)

c. **Forgiveness**

“Forgive yourself before you die. Then forgive others.”(Page 164. Line 1)

“Forgive yourself. Forgive others. Don’t wait, Mitch. Not everyone gets the time I’m getting. Not everyone is as lucky.”(Page 167. Line 8-10)