

# JOSEPH'S SOCIAL LIFE IN MICHAEL DAVID LUKAS'S THE LAST WATCHMAN OF OLD CAIRO

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## Abstract

The study aims to know the process interaction of Joseph in the social life in *The Last Watchman Of Old Cairo*. To achieve this purpose, the researcher finds the social life in the interaction and behavior of Joseph's character. The research uses a qualitative method to describe the result of this study. The result of this research shows that there are three ways in Joseph's social interaction. Three ways are language, communication and culture. In the story, Joseph can understand three different language and does not hesitate to meet new people, as seen in the interaction between Joseph with Mr. Maseori, Joseph with Aisha, Joseph with Security Guard and Joseph with his mother.

**Keywords:** *social life, interaction, behavior, and culture*

## INTRODUCTION

Interaction in social life is important. An individual begins his life relying from explore the quality of the relationship from his primary experience. Usually with people around him. Social life is most important since it influences their mental and physical health to gain a quality life. Social life is the process of human interaction. It builds from his action who related consider particular and allow the people of particular utilization from his dialect to created the images and normal interaction (Bargh & Williams, 2006). The term 'social life theory' can using the latter to explain work which engages with interaction and which explain of the discipline work (Duchastel, 2001). The explain of the character including the interaction of relationship. Interaction the process of the people to truth each other.

The main character of this research is called Joseph. He is the son of Claudia Shemarya as a mother and Ahmed Al-Raqb as a father. He is descended from Jews and Muslims. Within Joseph's social interaction, he tries to make a good relationship with the new person when he tried to find out the message from Ahmad Al-Iraq's letter. He is the father of Joseph but when Joseph is looking for the truth about his father, he often feels lost. That is because the truth about his father is complicated. He needs to talk and look for his friend's father who works as a watchman in Ibn Ezra Synagogue in the old Cairo.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Social life is the ways of the one of the particular of interaction. Social life processed of social events, interactions, and patterns. In sociology, Theory of the ways to explain

aspects of social interactions about society. Social life is an action of behavior to communicate between one individual to another. Usually social life is a result of where a connection would feel if the relationship is strong. Social life most important influences is on the character's mental and physical health for his quality life. Social life bases from the central argument the culture has autonomy. (Blau, 2017)

## **CONCEPT OF SOCIAL LIFE**

Social life is done, if someone feels shy or nervous when you are making new relationship and finding a new friend. Begin from connecting with old, neighbors, friends and acquaintances you can build your social network. Interaction can be done by meeting new people or when you tried to find out the problem and tried to be humble to everyone. That is why social life is important to be staying in touch with your friends to being a good friend to these around you.

Social life has 3 concepts to build good relationship:

1. Reconnect with your old friends. Try to think about people who feels familiar know from the past time, such as friends you when you were in school or when you were working at a certain place. You may also have old friends from childhood or from when you used to be part of in some area when you try to communicate to reach out of them so you can socialize.
2. Get to know your neighbors. Try to small talk with everyone who live around you and try not to think about social status. Focus on people living around you, so that you can feel connected with other, like the neighbors from your age and you can share your interests and giving the feedback each other.
3. Be friendly with people in your life anywhere. Try to start communication with anyone and give the good feedback from their communication. You can also be friendly towards people like your colleague as a way to grow your social network.

From all this concept social life focus on the interaction to recreated of the relationship and the rebuild the good relationship with the old friend, new friend and colleague

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study uses a qualitative research. Qualitative research is a method of observation the source of non-numerical data. (Guba, Lincoln, 2005). The research uses qualitative research because research referring Qualitative research has benefits to create an in-depth information of behaviors, interactions, events, and social processes The data, and propose explanations of causes or influences The data emerge from a qualitative research and the data

were analyzed by using evidence in the form of quotation taken from the novel and other reference such as article and some books about literature and material which is related to Michael David Lippincott “ The Last Watchman Of the Old Cairo “

## **FINDING AND DUSCUSSION**

### **4.1 Joseph’s Ways to Make Relationship in Michael David Lukas’ *The Last Watchman Of Old Cairo***

#### **4.1.1. Language**

When Joseph is born, he is the son of a Jewish mother and Muslim father. He is growing up with his mother. Joseph’s family comes from different cultures, specifically, his father uses Arabian language and his mother uses English language. It gives advantages for Joseph to understand more about Arabian language and English language.

But on the Tuesday August an unusual shoebox-sized package from his father arrived three month after his father died. This can be seen from this passage below:

”In the middle of my green plastic welcome mat, was the package the size of a shoebox, wrapped generously in tape and stamped all over with the logo of the Egyptian postal service. My name and address were printed across the top in the careful schoolboy hand that I recognized immediately as my father’s. Someone else had written the return address, along with in structure, in both English and Arabic, to handle carefully” (Lukas, 2018 14)

Joseph focused when the package arrived and on the package is a note written in two languages—English and Arabic—in the information detail for Joseph to accept. He immediately knows if the package is meant for him, since he can understand those languages. Vygotsky explanation about interaction mentions that he believes that language is a byproduct of children’s social interactions with the important people in their lives. *Thought and language*. The author giving understanding about two language in Joseph’s character because Joseph’s parents lived with different culture. Particularly, the language is concept important to interaction with the someone with different culture and country.

“ These were the only time I ever heard her speak Arabic, and I remember how different she sounded then , in her native language, almost nothing like woman who packed my launch every morning, kissed me on the top of my head, then went off to teach French at the local communication collage” ( Lukas, 2018: 23)

Joseph’s understanding about the language is important. Since language is making Joseph easily interacts with someone around him. The author, Lukas, explains on how Joseph’s proficiency in language makes his character considered as an extremely intelligent type. Joseph can understand

about different pronunciation of every language especially Arabic language which can be seen when he hears his mother and father talking in the living room.

#### 4.1.2. Communication

Ahmed Al-Raqb, Joseph's Father, died three months ago, and after his father dead due to having been sick for long time among seven or eight years. A few week after his father meets his end, Joseph called Aisha about his father Chemotherapy.

“when my cousin Aisha called, a few weeks before the end of the spring semester, to tell what that he was in the hospital, that he was going of chemotherapy. Two weeks later, she called again . “ He died in his sleep,” she said ( Lukas, 2018 15 )”

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From the fact above, the writer might say Joseph needs to communicate with his cousin to help him to take care of his father when his father is sick and help to take care of his chemotherapy. Whenever a person speaks, whenever he is in communication with another, whenever he puts forward an opinion, he is giving the reader some clues to his character.

After accepting the call from Aisha if his father dead Joseph is shocked and he confused about the incident and he must call his mother to tell about the truth of what happened about his father's demise. Before he calls his mother, he is thinking about needing to calm down but it's impossible.

“ But what could I do ? what was there to be done ? what was done was done, wasn't it ? after I got off the phone, I stretched out on the couch and pulled a throw pillow over my head. I remember noticing its musty thrift- store smell and the flicker of a television across the street. I knew I needed to call my mother, to tell her what had happened. But before I did, I wanted a moment to hold the news myself (Lukas, 2018 15)

It shows that communication is important to make relationship and to get information. According to Claude Shannon communication of information. It was originally proposed to giving important information on signal processing and communication operations such as data compression

#### 4.1.3. Culture

Joseph was born from two cultures: by his mother with Jews culture and Muslim culture from his father. When Joseph is looking for his Father's grave, people asked Joseph about his purpose going to Cairo. Joseph didn't say anything about his father and the package from Mr. Mosseri. He just said he wanted to see his Father's family in Cairo. Before Joseph going to Cairo, he discussed it with his mother because in Cairo there's a clash among Jews and Muslims.

““ Cairo ? she said “ you really want to spend the semester in Cairo ..? ““I think it will be good for me,” I told her “ you know the mourning process, wrestling the grief. Plus

I've been wanting to work on my Arabic ? "do you think it's safe ? she persisted " I mean, it wasn't so long ago they killed all those tourist in Luxor. " "Mom," I said , my voice taking on that familiar adolescent whine. ' you know that's not what it's like". (Lukas, 2018 80)

Joseph's mother know how's situation of the Cairo about the culture of religion Jews and Muslims has a conflict culture anytime but except his parents because his parents related their love from the relationship by synagogue and his father such as a watchman and his mother such as a clan of Shemarya who prayed in the synagogue. society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources. I'll be safe, "I said left it at that, not wanting to get into an argument about terrorism or corruption or that decline of Egyptian culture " I know, it just " (Lukas, 2018 81)

Joseph assures his mother that he would be safe while in Cairo and knows about Cairo being the source of terrorism and corruption and he understands all these things. Because his mother have had a bad experience when she was ten years old where she forced his friend his teacher and his home and her family always discusses with Egypt and always come back to the same thing: it's us vs them, which means if the Jews always fight with the Muslims. His mother is worried about that and especially if someone knows that Joseph from Jews and Muslims but In the Cairo Joseph believed he was will be safe because he has some family in the Cairo from his father's family. The author tries to show if the relationship between Jews and Muslims can forge a bond depicted in Joseph's character in which his parents come from Jewish culture and Muslim culture and the author gives the fact if the Muslims and Jews always Fight.

The Joseph come to synagogue but Joseph explained the important of the particular of the papers as far Joseph understood and his Joseph father's connected with synagogue but his uncle Hassan though if the paper might have been found. But Joseph is doing the best explanation about the fact if his father but he still Confused from a minute when he was answer and then he was explanation<sup>24</sup> if his father worked in

The synagogue such as the watchman and how his mother met with his father in the courtyard of the synagogue. Joseph's explanation about the truth because Joseph didn't feel especially among Jews and Muslims and then Joseph telling the story about al-Raqb such as watchman of this synagogue and then the Abdullah wanna helped Joseph to look for the Mr.Mosseri. " This is Jews ?" he asked " Hebrew," I corrected. 'it's from synagogue, in Old Cairo." He nodded, though he still seemed somewhat confused." You Father, he was a Jews ?" "No," I said. ( Lukas, 2018 101 )

From the quotation above if the Related of the Joseph with the synagogue and the true story about his father is worked such as a watchman in this synagogue can giving the clue to looking for the MR. Mosseri to found out the answer and to found out the his Grave's father. Influence has also been obvious in arguments about the historically specific character of culture and its development as both an object and instrument of the object.

## 4.2 Joseph's Social Interaction In Michael David Lukas " *The Last Watchman Of Old Cairo* "

### 4.2.1. Joseph's Interaction with Mr. Maseori

After Joseph accepted the package on a Tuesday in early August and then Joseph know if the package from Cairo by the logo of the Egyptian postal card The package is index card and some note to Joseph in the back of index card got a massage and then content from the massage is from his father before his father death and to looking for Mr. Mosseri to found out the answer from the a mysterious artifact. The begun was interaction by the papers Joseph and Mr. Maseori. The massage <sup>26</sup> *I think you should want this* " to Joseph and another note is information from Ahmad al-Raqb's friends and then Joseph found the short note.

"Printed on thick, cream-colored stock , the card gave no title or company, just a name – Mr. Claude Mosseri – a telephone number, and an address. On the back, Mr. Mosseri had written a short note. Your father asked me to send you this. He was a great friend. Please call if you ever find yourself in cairo" ( Lukas, 2018 19-20)

The author giving the opening and clue to Joseph by the Joseph accepted the massage from Mr.Mosseri and Joseph Joseph wanna know about his Father's death and his grave and then Joseph tried to begin with looking for the Mr.Mosseri because Mr, Mosseri who send the package and know about the true story of his father and this is the begin of interaction Joseph and Mr, Mosseri.

"Then Mr.Mosseri told a story, from my Father's produce salesman days, which ended in him returning ten thousand pounds to a poor fruit vendor who had inadvertently overpaid his account for nearly three years. I had heard most of these stories before-from Uncle Hassan and from my father, himself-but hearing them retold from this new perspective, I began to understand what my father had meant to these women, their families, and the community he had served. He was more than just a watchman. He was a friend, a protector, an adviser, one of the linchpins that held the community together". (Lukas, 2018 182)

The Author explanation Mr. Mosseri is telling a story about his father who will be a salesman but Joseph ever heard a story from the un~~20~~ Hassan and joseph aware of his father's kindness which is very important for those around him not only as a father but he was being more then important for his friend's life.

The author gives the related Interaction Joseph and Mr.Mosseri to be more than closely by remember about his story Joseph's Father and memories its make Joseph though if the Mr. Mosseri his best friends because from the story known its same about story who his father telling to Joseph. The people who interact and live close to each other will be more likely to develop a relationship.

" Before she could finish her sentence, Mr. Mosseri stood up suddenly from the table " I nearly forgot," he said as he disappeared down the hall "excuse me." A few moments later by which time the conversation had disagreed into an argument about

my grandmother's maiden name, Mr. Mosseri returned with a bettered old shoebox and set it on the table in front of me ” (Lukas, 2018 183)

The author explain Mr. Mevorakh and Mr. Mosseri telling to Joseph when the moment his father smitten with his Joseph Mother but in the moment some story debate with Mr. Mosseri suddenly Mr Mosseri remember about shoes box who he was safe in the disappeared down the hall and put it the shoebox to showed to Joseph.

#### **4.2.2. Joseph's Interaction with Aisha**

Joseph is son Ahmed al-roqb but from the al-roqb's family in the Cairo. Joseph has a cousin Aisha who care to Joseph's father to put up chemotherapy before his father death on the end of that spring semester who his father sick for long time around seven-eight years.

“ He had been sick for long time—seven or eight years, depending on how you counted: still took me by surprise when my cousin Aisha called a few weeks before the end of that spring semester, to tell me that he was in the hospital, that he was going off chemotherapy. Two weeks later, she called again. “he died in his sleep,” she said. According to Muslim tradition, a person was supposed to be buried as soon as possible so there was no way I could make it back to Cairo in time for the funeral, not without getting on a plane that afternoon. “ (Lukas, 2018 15)

Then the Author gives understanding to reader first interaction Joseph with Aisha connected to be good. the tendency for individuals to form interpersonal relations with those who are close It shows Aisha call the Joseph when his father was died in his sleep who needs to understand person to know about that situation and Joseph shocked when the Aisha called and giving the information about his father.

“it's going to be small,” Aisha said, to make me feel better about not being there. Beside family, they expected a couple of employees from Uncle Hassan's produce distribution company, maybe some people from Ibn Ezra. As far as I knew, that was the extent of my father's life: his family, his work, and the synagogue he had watched over when he was a young man. “let me know if there's anything I can do>” “ I will, she said.” (Lukas, 2018 15)

Joseph felt sorry because when his father died at that time Joseph was not there and he was confused about not doing anything. hope someone who is in Cairo can do the best for his father when his father died and Aisha tried to giving the good for his father. This interaction who more important when we need to someone to doing what I need from the far away if the interaction will be good each other.

#### **4.2.3. Joseph's Interaction with Security Guard**

When Joseph standing amidst the sunburns and cargo short, listening to a group of Australians argue about the ethnic of giving money street kids, and Joseph tried to remember some of the stories

his father about the various al-Raqb men who had defended the synagogue from harm. And Joseph remember about his picture when he is listening Australian group argue, and suddenly the security guard closely Joseph.

“Excuse me.” In the midst of these thoughts, a security guard approached me from behind. “excuse me, sir,” he said. “ you can’t stand here.” In retrospect, it probably would have been wiser to respond in English, to play the bewildered tourist card. Instead, I snapped back in Arabic. “ I can’t stand here ?” “ you can stand there,” he offered, indicating the Australian a few feet away. “But not here. It’s restricted area.” (Lukas, 2018 142)

#### **4.2.4. Joseph’s Interaction with his Mother**

After Joseph’s father died. Joseph lives with his father in California Joseph is student of literature at Berkeley. After Joseph got information by Aisha. About his Father’s died. Joseph Feels confused and shocked for not long time ago. Joseph was thinking to calling his mother. “ I knew I needed to call my mother, to tell her what had happened. But before I did, I wanted a moment to hold the news myself.” (Lukas, 2018 15)

For not long time ago Joseph call his mother and delivered the information if he was father death and his Mother shocked then the Author giving a perception to Joseph with strong Bond. Social Bond was focus on peers and peer groups of individuals. The four basic elements of social bond theory are attachment, commitment, involvement in conventional.

“ I could have called Mr.Mosseri or Aisha or Uncle Hassan or one of my friends who studied Hebrew and Arabic literature. But my Mother was the first person I called. Not because I thought she would be able to shed any light n the meaning of the package. She want’s. I called her because I knew she would understand “ ( Lukas, 2018 21)

In additional, the Author given the understand to reader if the social interaction with his Joseph’s Mother was more than important about anyone because when the Joseph going the Cairo his mother was worried about his situation and that shows if the interaction Joseph and his Mother be able when he was got information about his father he was always telling to his mother first. The commitment, this can be described as the level of commitment that an individual has to abide by legal behavior



## CONCLUSION

Joseph to another character with the ways language, communication, and culture. The source from the novel, the writer found that intelligent Joseph to understanding some language in English and Arabic makes easy the process interaction because in this Novel. Joseph has a story after The package with the logo stamp of the Egyptian postal service. The package is index card and some note to Joseph in the back of index card got a message his mother think Joseph should want the short note to Joseph and another note is information from Ahmad al-Raqb's friends and then Joseph found the short note with the content his father asked to Mr. Mosseri to send Joseph the short note, Mr. Mosseri was a great friend, Joseph call Mr. Mosseri if Joseph ever find Joseph in Cairo" completed with the Mr. Mosseri, telephone and address Mr. Claude Mosseri as a Best friend from his Father and the he needs to move Joseph and his cousin Aisha to Flight Berkeley to Cairo to looking for Mr. Mosseri to ask everything about his father because of Mr. Mosseri his best friend. it is not easy to looking for Mr. Mosseri. to looking for Mr. Claude Mosseri to found the grave of his father and then process interaction will be easy because when he communication with Cairo people to get more the clue and to giving the feedback when he was interaction.

The author showed if the interaction Joseph every meet with the new person Joseph never explain more deeply because Joseph know if in the Cairo still never accepted about the Jews but he is still tried to interaction with new person and used the politeness content when Joseph interaction with new people in the Cairo. While Joseph interaction with his mother will be good. It's showed when the Joseph stay far away from his mother Joseph still and every still got new information Joseph always call his mother

In the story author is giving a Process of interaction uses Language, communication, and culture. Social interaction Joseph with another character. it shows how Joseph's interaction in this story and the author giving that knowledge in the Joseph about social life. and show if the main character Joseph can be able to interaction anyways and it's all, the author giving the Joseph character don't to be arrogant although Joseph life in the high social class

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