

## Tragic Consequences of Life in Paulo Coelho's *The Spy*: Character Analysis

Wiwin Malinda<sup>1\*</sup>, Ceisy N. Wuntu<sup>2</sup>, Agustine C. Mamentu<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kajian Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
Email: [wiwinmalinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiwinmalinda@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Negeri Manado, Tondano, Indonesia  
Email: [ceisywuntu@unima.ac.id](mailto:ceisywuntu@unima.ac.id)

<sup>3</sup>Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Negeri Manado, Tondano, Indonesia  
Email: [claramamentu@unima.ac.id](mailto:claramamentu@unima.ac.id)

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Receive: 08 October 2023

Accepted: 28 April 2024

Published: 04 June 2024

### KEYWORDS

Tragedy

Life

Dream

Popularity

### LICENSE

Copyright © 2024 Wiwin Malinda, Ceisy N. Wuntu, Agustine C. Mamentu



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to reveal the tragedy experienced by the main character Mata Hari in Coelho's *The Spy*. The main characters struggle to pursue her dream, until the end she had to face the tragedy of her death. This study is using qualitative research. The primary source is the novel itself *The Spy*. While secondary sources include books related to the analysis of the research and relevant book and resources that support the analysis; quotation, definition, and statement. The death of Mata Hari as the main character in Coelho's *The Spy* is a tragedy. That becomes a history of her struggle. Married then moved and lived in Indonesia, precisely in Malang, because Rudolf MacLeod or Mata Hari's husband was assigned there. With confident that after married will change Mata Hari's for the better. Yet different things got, Mata Hari was only made a seizure by the husband. The days she lived on the island of Java, only became endless nightmares. The result of this study shows that tragic consequences of life in Mata Hari bring her to death. It because of the way of her life: being divorced, being a popular exotic dancer, becoming a mistress.

### \*Corresponding Author:

Wiwin Malinda  
Universitas Sanata Dharma  
Email: [wiwinmalinda@gmail.com](mailto:wiwinmalinda@gmail.com)

### INTRODUCTION

Tragic is the irregular from tragedy. The tragedy is a sudden violent that brings about great loss or destruction ("Tragedy"). Disaster or misfortune that occurred was part of the tragedy. Tragedy often brings sadness one of its causes that is death. Tragedy can occur due to fate or any other factor can be the cause.

One of Coelho's novels that is *The Spy* was published in November 2016 which tell about the woman her name Margaretha Zelle or Mata Hari. As the main character, Margaretha was born in the Netherland in 1876. Since childhood, Margaretha has high ideals and wants to fight the world. She grew up as a charming girl. At the age of 18 years, Margaretha was married to a Dutch officer of Scottish descent, currently stationed in Indonesia. However, married with Dutch officer brought to duty to Indonesia, when it was still called the Dutch East Indies. But her doubling husband turned out to be an alcoholic and often tortured her. Unbearable to be afflicted and afflicted, Margaretha left her husband.

After that she divorced her husband, she began studying Javanese dance and joining local dance groups. Margaretha then moved to Paris and pursue a career as an exotic dancer. Many officers are crazy about her. In Paris, she becomes a dancer with a unique stage name for Europe: "Mata Hari". For Coelho, Mata Hari is a courageous woman who freed herself from the morality and customs of the early twenty century.

The tragedy that occurred in the novel that Mata Hari had to face her own death for being accused of being a spy. Where she wants to live lavishly with her work without thinking of others' views on her. Her only crime was to be an independent woman. Mata Hari was a woman who will not remember her struggle, but her survival for her life will be figuration for the present. Because of the main character's desire to be an independent woman in the narrative, the writer was motivated to write about this subject. Where she wanted to live luxuriously in reward for her efforts while pursuing her ambition of being famous. As the story's main character Mata Hari, she decided to lead an exotic dancer's lifestyles. Mata Hari carried on living her life as she saw fit, becoming a mistress of the official. To fulfill the desire for a luxurious lifestyle. She was eventually forced to accept her fate after being charged with being a spy.

## RESEARCH METHOD

According to Sujarweni qualitative research, in general, can be used for research on people's lives, history behavior, organization functionalization social activities, etc, (Metodologi Penelitian, 2014, p. 6). Based on that statement, in this research, the writer uses a qualitative method. Because the data are about people's lives and history. Then the data do not deal with numbers, diagrams, and formulas but that data one in the form of the word.

Based on Kinayati and Sumaryati stated in their book *Prinsip-Prinsip Dasar Penelitian Bahasa & Sastra* "Qualitative research has a natural setting as a direct source of data and a researcher is a key to the instrument" (2002, p. 28). In other words, the writer is a key instrument to select and collect the data.

### *Data Collection*

Based on this research, the writer collects the data into two categories as Griffith states "Primary research as "the study of a subject through firsthand investigation." Primary sources include such things as "statistical data, historical document, and works of literature" (Writing Essay about Literature: Eight Edition, 2011, p. 301). The primary resource is the novel itself by Paulo Coelho. While secondary sources as stated by Griffith "secondary research as "the examination of studies that other researches have made of subject" (p. 302). Secondary sources include books related to the analysis of the research and also relevant books and sources that support the analysis.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### *Findings*

Tragedy is a drama or literary work in which the main character is brought to the ruin or suffer extreme sorrow, especially a consequence of a tragic flaw, moral weakness, or inability to cope with unfavorable circumstances. Defining tragedy is no simple matter, and there are many definitions, some of which compatible with each other. But tragedy has been used to make genre distinction. Talking about tragedy in general sense of tragedy can be interpreted as a sad event. An incident can occur because it is caused by element from outside as well as inside. It could be intentional or it did happen because of the fate. Tragedy is often associated with a disaster or misfortune.

In the story, Mata Hari want to be an independent woman. Where she want to express herself as an erotic dancer. For the sake of pursuing her dreams for a fancy life, she was willing to do anything she thought could make money. Her desire to live freely, without any having to forbid. By relying on her fame as exotic dancer, making Mata Hari able to get along at will with whoever it was, to become the most famous woman. Without Mata Hari knowing, that her life that was not forever would bring pleasure and composure to her. Until finally she had to accept the death that no one like that, shot dead on charges of being a spy. This is where title of the novel comes from.

Paulo Coelho's novel *\*The Spy\** offers a compelling portrayal of the life of Mata Hari, a woman who lived on the fringes of society and ultimately faced tragic consequences. Through a detailed character analysis of Mata Hari, Coelho examines the complexities of her personality and the societal forces that led to her downfall.

The novel paints a vivid picture of a woman who defied conventional norms but was ultimately ensnared by the very society she sought to transcend. This analysis delves into the tragic consequences of Mata Hari's life, focusing on her quest for freedom, her manipulation of identity, her relationships, and the societal judgments that culminated in her execution.

Mata Hari's relentless pursuit of freedom is a central theme in Coelho's narrative, reflecting her desire to break free from the constraints of a society that sought to control her. Born Margaretha Zelle in a conservative Dutch society, Mata Hari's early life was marked by a lack of autonomy and rigid gender roles. Her decision to reinvent herself as Mata Hari, an exotic dancer and courtesan, was an act of defiance against these constraints. Through her performances and public persona, she cultivated an image of herself as a liberated woman, one who could dictate the terms of her own existence. However, this quest for freedom came at a high cost. Mata Hari's rejection of societal norms made her a target for suspicion and resentment, particularly in the context of the conservative and war-torn Europe of the early 20th century. Her desire for freedom, while empowering, also isolated her, making her vulnerable to the tragic fate that awaited her.

Central to Mata Hari's tragedy is her manipulation of identity, which Coelho portrays as both a source of empowerment and a cause of her downfall. Mata Hari was a master of self-invention, skillfully crafting an enigmatic persona that fascinated and bewildered those around her. She used her allure and mystique to navigate the male-dominated world of espionage, performing the roles of a seductress and a spy with equal dexterity. However, this manipulation of identity also had a dark side. By blurring the lines between her true self and her constructed persona, Mata Hari became trapped in her own illusions. Her ability to manipulate others' perceptions ultimately backfired when she became entangled in the complex web of espionage during World War I. As the lines between truth and fabrication blurred, she was unable to extricate herself from the false accusations that led to her execution. Coelho's portrayal of Mata Hari suggests that while the manipulation of identity can offer temporary power, it can also lead to tragic consequences when the facade crumbles.

Mata Hari's relationships further underscore the tragic consequences of her life, revealing the emotional toll of her quest for autonomy and identity. Throughout the novel, her interactions with men are characterized by a complex blend of manipulation and genuine emotion. While she often used her relationships to gain power and influence, she also yearned for love and validation. Her

relationships were transactional, yet they also exposed her vulnerability. Mata Hari's need for emotional connection clashed with her desire for independence, creating a deep internal conflict. Coelho illustrates how her relationships, rather than providing solace, contributed to her isolation. The men who were drawn to her were also complicit in her downfall, as they projected their desires and fears onto her, ultimately leading to her betrayal. Mata Hari's tragedy lies in the fact that, despite her efforts to control her destiny, she was ultimately betrayed by those she trusted, underscoring the fragility of her carefully constructed world.

The societal judgments imposed on Mata Hari play a crucial role in the tragic trajectory of her life, as Coelho examines the impact of public perception and the role of gender in her downfall. Mata Hari's unconventional lifestyle, characterized by her defiance of societal norms and her unapologetic embrace of sensuality, made her a polarizing figure. In a society that valued conformity and chastised those who deviated from established norms, Mata Hari's independence was seen as a threat. The public and the authorities were quick to judge her, and during the war, she was an easy scapegoat for the failures and fears of the time. Coelho portrays how the intersection of gender and societal expectations sealed her fate. As a woman who dared to assert her agency, Mata Hari was not only punished for her alleged crimes but also for her defiance of the roles assigned to her by society. Her execution was less about her guilt and more about the societal need to vilify a woman who refused to conform.

The Spy offers a poignant exploration of the tragic consequences of Mata Hari's life through a nuanced character analysis. Her pursuit of freedom, manipulation of identity, complex relationships, and the harsh judgments of society collectively contributed to her downfall. Paulo Coelho presents Mata Hari as a multifaceted character whose life was a continuous struggle against the constraints imposed upon her by society. Her tragic end serves as a reminder of the perils faced by those who challenge societal norms, particularly women who seek to assert their autonomy in a world that seeks to control them. Coelho's novel not only recounts the historical events leading to Mata Hari's execution but also invites readers to reflect on the broader implications of her story, highlighting the enduring relevance of her struggle in contemporary discussions of gender, power, and identity.

### ***Discussion***

The tragedy that struck Mata Hari which she was made a scapegoat by the German government for the work they gave to her. At the time of the first world

wars that took place in 1914 centered in Europe, involving many major countries among others Russian, French, and Germany. It was Mata Hari on her way to Berlin, she is invited to dance for the nobles and then goes to see the Foreign Minister. With such an invitation to make Mata Hari easily and lucrative of a fee interesting enough to do just that.

When the show is underway, the theater in the besiegers and the show is stopped. The German soldiers took the stage and deliver a message, "These the word of our Kaiser: *'We are living a dark moment in the history of our country, which is surrounded by enemies. We shall need to unsheathe our swords. I hope we may use them well and with dignity.'*" (Coelho, p. 106). After that happened, Mata Hari obtained an explanation that her invitation to come there other than to dance they needed her services. But at first, she felt surprised by the offer that they needed her services. Claiming Mata Hari had a close relationship with the government. Actually, Mata Hari disagrees with the job captive. Because she does not like being a spy. Yet there is no choice but to follow the existing request.

"As someone who has access to the government's inner circles."

The word he was trying to say, but didn't have the courage to voice, was "spy". Something I would never do in all my life. As I'm sure you remember, honorable Mr. Clunet, I said as much during that farce of a trial: "A prostitute, yes. A spy, never!" (Coelho, p. 111)."

### *Tragic Consequences of Life in Mata Hari*

Every human has their own choices, maybe to be success person or famous or just want to be happy for life. Happy everyone want to see happy in their life. Se they will do anything that can make them look happy. Enjoying life with family, one of the way how they will be happy.

"In 1889, my family's fortune changed - Adam went bankrupt and Antje fell ill, dying two years later. They did not want me to have to go through what they went through, and sent me away to school in another city, Leiden firm in their objective that I have the finest education. (Coelho, pp. 17-18)."

Every parents will do anything for their child, in order to make they will be a success person. Mata Hari's parents want their daughter to get a proper education. So, she cannot feel suffer like her parents. They do not want their daughter to feel distress. With optimism that after school their daughter can get a better life. But at school, Mata Hari only had a bad experienced. She get raped by her principal, that

incident did not just happen to her. But it already happened to other girl in their school. They could not complained, it risked being expelled from school and sent back home, unable to explain the reason. So they were forced to keep quite.

On July 1895, Mata Hari decided to married with Rudolf MacLeod. With hope after married she can get better life.

*““Changed” and “Change for the better” are two different things. If it weren’t for dance and for an officer named Andreas, my years in Indonesia would have been a never-ending nightmare. My worst nightmare now would be to go through it all again. A distant husband who always surrounded by other women, the impossibility of running away and returning home, the loneliness that came from being forced to spend month indoors because I didn’t speak the language, not to mention being constantly kept tabs on by the other officers” (Coelho, p. 24).*

After her married with Rudolf MacLeod, Mata Hari follow him live abroad. Stationed in Indonesia, precisely in Malang. Think that her life will be changed. But there is no changing, instead she is just become a seizure for her husband. Her days in Indonesia have would been never-ending nightmare.

Now the days Mata Hari lived were getting tougher. Being a housewife who can only stay indoors, without being able to hang out with the people around her. And must lost her son who is the second child after her daughter.

*“Gradually I lost sight of who I was. My days were spent caring for my daughter, shuffling about the house with a vacant look on my face. I concealed the scratches and bruises under extra make up, but I knew it wasn’t fooling anyone.*

*I fell pregnant again. I enjoyed a few days of immense happiness caring for my son, but he was soon poisoned by one of his nannies, who never had the opportunity to explain her actions; the other servants killed her the same day the baby was founded dead. In the end, most said it was deserve retaliation, as the nanny had been constantly beaten, raped, and burdened by endless working hours” (Coelho, pp. 26-27).*

That is the reality of life, every achievement that we have, everything does not always bring happiness. As the saying goes regrets always comes late. That is what Mata Hari experienced. Her desire to live freely turns out not to give her pleasure but on the contrary.

### *The Way of Life*

If you are popular, you are already successful. At the very least, you have to be popular before you can be successful. You may be popular as all get-out, but if you are not making any money, you are only hurting yourself. Popularity is a luxury you cannot afford to chase if you have not made any money yet, because you will need income to sustain yourself while you do. Popularity and success require different tactics, so you have to decide between fame and fortune. In short when you start pursuing success, your popularity is going to take a hit. The opposite is just as true. The popularity Mata Has had received made her success becoming a well-known dancer, with more than enough earnings to support herself.

Everyone generally faces two dimensions in life. First dimension is the real life and the other one is their fantasy. Real life is everything that can be experienced, seen, heard, and touched, by her or him directly as long as she or he is alive as an individualistic and social human (Mamentu, p. 368). In order to pursuing her dream of living with luxury, Mata Hari willingly did anything for it. Even if she had to pay for something with sex. With the perspective of the time, France was an example in equality and freedom. Living with the perspective that freedom will bring happiness. Making Mata Hari was not hesitated to appear increasingly erotic in some of her staging. For Mata Hari the totality of the embroidery in her dance was part of the art she created to entertain the audience.

“I will always be grateful to Monsieur Guimet. He gave me fist chance to perform, at his private museum, and in every expensive clothes he had imported from Asia for his personal collection, although it did cost me half an hour of sex and very pleasure. I danced for and audience of three hundred people, including journalist, celebrities, and at least two ambassadors-one from Japan and one from Germany. Two days later. It was all the papers could talk about, this exotic woman who had been born in a remote corner of the Dutch empire and brought the “religiousness” and “disinhibition” of people from distant lands. (Coelho, p. 57)”

Her dream of luxury life was already achieved. Mata Hari become more and more familiar to people, and that made her even more confident. The life achievement Mata Hari the one who saw her envy. Because whatever Mata Hari wants can surely materialize easily. Yet the flow of life does not always fit our will. Even the famous man will be lost in time. Life is beautiful, although there are so



many problems to facing. Sometimes people live in happily, and sometimes we life in sadness (Rombejung, p. 65)

### ***Being Divorced***

Mata Hari feels her marriage cannot change her life. The day she had walked during marriage instead became a nightmare for her. Feels always oppressed and hurt. Because of the husband's temperament so harsh and excessive jealousy that it forbids her to hang out with the people around her.

In 1902 Mata Hari and her husband divorced. Then Mata Hari choose to leave her family and move to Paris. When Mata Hari arrived in Paris, she was penniless. "I do not know who that woman is. All my life I've thought and acted like Mata Hari, the woman who has been and always will be the fascination of men and envy of woman. Ever since I left Holland, I've lost all sense of distance and danger- neither scares me. I arrived in Paris with no money and no proper wardrobe, and just look at how I've moved up. I hope the same happen to you" (Coelho, p. 57).

### ***Being a Popular Exotic Dancer***

With a firm provision of confidence and determination, Mata Hari tries her luck in Paris. A very different city far from her home town. The first time Mata Hari step in that city, she incredibly astonished by the beauty and luxury that the city has.

*"I couldn't believe what I was seeing. A giant iron tower stretched to the heavens, yet wasn't on any of the city's postcard. Lining both bank of the Seine were distinctive buildings in the style of China, Italy, and other of the world's most illustrations countries. I tried to find Holland, but could not. What represent my country? The old windmills? Heavy wooden shoes? (Coelho, p. 45)"*

Paris has been the scene of her dream since Mata Hari was a child, "This was a dream I'd had since childhood; just making it here was almost achievement enough" (Coelho, p. 47). With her strong determination to continue her life, she took her career as an exotic dancer.

As she began to undertake her career, as a dancer she choose to replace her name. Because that way it can make her forget about her dark past. "He relaxed and asked my name so he could write a letter of referral to Monsieur Guimet. I had never thought of that! A name? My real name would be lead to my family, and the last thing France wanted was to create a situation with neutral nation because of a

woman who was desperate to escape. "Your name?" he repeated, paper and pen in hand. "Mata Hari." The blood of Andrea's wife was baptizing me again" (Coelho, p. 44).

After trying several times to find someone who can take her to perform her dance. Finally she was accepted to perform her dance. Her first look managed to make the audience captivated. Then Mata Hari continue her career as a fairly well-known dancer of the period. Living with freedom without anyone should forbid her to hang out with whoever is it, made her even more famous.

*"Slender and tall, with the little grace of wild animal  
Mata Hari has black hair and that undulates strangely  
and transport as to a magical place.  
The most feminine of all women, writing unfamiliar  
tragedy with her body.  
A thousand curves and movements combine perfectly  
with a thousand different rhythms."* (Coelho, p. 55)

Such are sentences written on the clippings of scattered newspapers across the corners of the city. Each wall was exposed to a picture of Mata Hari, as well images were exchanged a much-sold postcard. Her name began to mention many everywhere, due to her reaping appearance of many pros and cons. But all those things do not short her spirit of staying forward.

### ***Become a Mistress***

Mata Hari began to regrets her deeds all along. The freedom she had committed turned to out to be nightmare for her. But her regrets were not over at that very moment. The French who had been at the time of its glory, made her forget about it.

Mata Hari is beginning to forget her darks past. Trying to do some things that could make her forget about the past. Now try to move on, by utilizing her beauty. Being a mistress of official, she was willing to do just that because of money.

"I had long since lost any illusion of being loved for who I was and now accepted, with a clean conscience, flowers, flattery, and money that feed my ego and my false identity. For certain, I'd go to my grave one day without ever knowing love, but what difference did it make? For me, love and power were the same thing.  
However, I wasn't foolish enough to let the other realize that. I approach Messimy and give him a loud peck in his cheek, half of

which was covered by whisker similar to those of my ill-fated husband." (Coelho, pp. 87-88)

For Mata Hari love obeyed no rule. The people her approach, thinking they had made Mata Hari fall in love with them. But that is just their presumption. As for Mata Hari, they are not just for sex, but for feeling argued. Because she thinks who can fight a woman's earnest desire can arouse the feeling that she is capable of anything. For her love and power were the same thing.

The popularity of her youth in France has now slowly begun disappear. Because it has been replaced with several newcomer artist and dancer, who are minute in career such as Mata Hari. According to Mata Hari they were just plagiarist, and not more proficient as she was. Looking at the large picture that show most of her body's beauty, which is usually displayed in the advertising board. Starts to be replaced with the newcomer's face. In her passing age from thirty-years. Make her frustrated and think that no sooner will she grow old, ugly, and poor. But concern was instantly lost, when she began to remember her other mistress. And start taking advantage of the circumstances right then.

"I had plans to go to the château my banker friend has a built for his "golden years." Poor thing: he was already old, but didn't want to admit it. I would stay there for two or three days riding horses, and by Sunday I could be back in Paris, were I'd go to straight to the Longchamp Racecourse and show all those who envied and admired me that I was an excellent horsewoman." (Coelho, p. 90).

### ***Sentenced to Death***

Like the phrase in the book *The Sparkling of Mandela's Heart* (Eds, p. 36) "I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walks is not ended."

As the above statement say, once freedom will come the liability of answer. It means life does not always mean pleasure and perfection. In the age was getting older, Mata Hari began to feel the impact of her elapsed youth. The influence of her young life was quite tenacious, which she became known as the most feminine of all women. The life she dreamed of independence and freedom. Now it became a

tormenting thing for her, for she always haunted by the shadow of her past so dark. Recalling her past with an older husband and drunkard, a daughter who did not have time to stay with her.

As a woman who could be anything and one who was never anything, one who wouldn't have even a single story to tell her children and grandchildren (Coelho, p. 103). As a woman who chooses to continue her life alone. Sometimes Mata Hari is always reminded of her past, remembering her son died because of being poisoned by her maid house. Because they were hurt by her husband's treatment of them. Remembering her daughter who was abandoned, and wanted to meet to tell her life's extraordinary story.

After her appearance in Berlin that did not go well. Mata Hari was sent to meet a German consul in her country. With the purpose of being able to bring her back to Paris. But after meeting the person, Mata Hari is instead to cooperate.

After Mata Hari was successfully delivered to return to her home country of the Netherlands. On the way to the station, on the way she saw many people who were carrying out large-scale demonstrations and shouting "Germany above all!". Her mind was again confused by a previous conversation, where she was asked to cooperate with the German government to provide information relating to war. Because according to them Mata Hari has many connections in both the French and Dutch government circles. This is a job that she really hates, because she does not like being called a spy.

"I have a friend who is the German consul in your country. He can help you rebuild your life. But be careful: Like me, it's quite possible he will try to get you to help out war effort.'

Once again he avoid the word "spy." I was an experienced enough woman to escape these trap. How many time I had done it in my relationship with men? (Coelho, pp. 112-113)"

There is no choice, other than to follow the existing command. Because in such times of war, Mata Hari could only fit in to the circumstances at hand. Mata Hari had to be willing to accept the work of given to her, for only by doing so could bring her back to Paris.

It turns out that the work give to her is just a way that Georges Ladoux, the head of counterespionage to seek promotion and cover up the wrong case that has punished the wrong person. In other word he was looking for someone who could be used as a scapegoat to cover up the mistake he had make.

After successfully returning to Paris and sending some information to the Germans. In 1917, Mata Hari was arrested by the war council prosecutor in her hotel room at Elysee Palace, accused of being a spy.

Mata Hari could only defend herself by saying that she was innocent and she was only made a scapegoat behind everything. Trying to contact several parties who gave her a job, but none of them wanted to help her. After going through a series of interrogations and hearings. Mata Hari is still said to be guilty of spying in collaboration with French intelligence, but it also provided some information to German espionage. Attempted to free themselves from these accusations, but Mata Hari did not have strong evidence to oppose all of the accusations.

As the tragedy in the end of her life, Mata Hari had to spend the rest of her life in a women's prison in Paris, Saint Lazare. While awaiting execution, one of Mata Hari's last requests was pen and paper to write letter. Imagining again her life, from a small town in the Netherlands, reached the island of Java with an old husband and drunkard, then to Paris full of glamour and luxury. Until have to receive the most severe punishment that is in death shot. Regret remains, but everything has happened there is nothing more to change again that is the path of fate. Of all the deeds Mata Hari done, her only crime was to be an independent woman.

This story has some moral values that inspires the writer to serve as a researcher material. From the story of Mata Hari, we can see that life is not as usual we want. Where we got freedom of life we should use it for take on kindness. Everyone can use freedom for express themselves, like being something they want. Express their self in art for entertain people. Freedom exist for everyone. But when we use freedom for abusing, there is a rule for prohibit its.

The death of Mata Hari was a tragedy that became a history of her struggle as long as she lived. Her struggle as long as she lives from small to adulthood are a reflection of tough women in face of the hardness of life. Her experience give lesson that the woman is not forever weak, the failure of life experienced by Mata Hari keeps her struggling to pursue her dreams. With such a hard desire can change one self. Until it turns a woman who used to be ordinary became outstanding. With strong determination and unyielding struggle, it could turn Mata Hari who only a housewife became a famous artist with the life everyone wanted. Yet from the other side of the life lived by Mata Hari there are some thing that are not worth exemplifying.

Mata Hari's life is a testament to the dangers of living on the fringes of societal norms, where the pursuit of freedom often comes at a steep cost. Her

transformation from Margaretha Zelle into the exotic and enigmatic Mata Hari was an act of defiance against the constraints of her time. However, this quest for freedom also isolated her from the very society she sought to transcend. Coelho portrays her as a woman who boldly rejected the roles imposed upon her by a patriarchal society, but who ultimately paid the price for this defiance. Her tragic end underscores the idea that while the pursuit of personal autonomy is empowering, it can also lead to alienation and vulnerability, especially in a world that is quick to punish those who challenge its norms.

Central to the tragedy of Mata Hari's life is her manipulation of identity, which Coelho depicts as both a tool for survival and a trap of her own making. Mata Hari's ability to craft and maintain a seductive and mysterious persona allowed her to navigate the dangerous waters of espionage and court intrigue. However, this same skill of self-invention became a double-edged sword. By living behind a mask, she blurred the lines between reality and performance, which ultimately led to her being misunderstood and misjudged by those around her. The tragic irony of her life is that the very attributes that made her powerful – her allure, her mystique, and her ability to captivate – also made her a target of suspicion and condemnation. Coelho's portrayal of Mata Hari serves as a cautionary tale about the risks of losing oneself in the roles one plays, and the dangers of a world that cannot distinguish between appearance and reality.

Mata Hari's relationships, particularly with the men in her life, are another crucial element in understanding the tragic trajectory of her existence. Coelho illustrates how these relationships were fraught with complexity, blending manipulation with genuine emotional needs. Mata Hari's interactions with men were often transactional, driven by her need to maintain her lifestyle and assert her independence. Yet, beneath this surface, there was also a profound longing for connection and validation. This duality in her relationships – where she was both the manipulator and the manipulated – contributed to her isolation and eventual betrayal. The men who surrounded her, drawn to her for different reasons, ultimately played roles in her downfall, either by exploiting her vulnerabilities or by abandoning her in her time of need. Coelho uses these relationships to explore the theme of betrayal, highlighting how trust and loyalty are often fragile and unreliable in a world driven by power and self-interest.

The societal judgments that sealed Mata Hari's fate are perhaps the most tragic aspect of her life, as Coelho examines the destructive power of public perception and societal expectations. Mata Hari was a woman who dared to defy the

conventions of her time, embracing a life of sensuality and independence that was in stark contrast to the submissive roles expected of women. Her execution was not merely a punishment for the alleged crime of espionage but a symbolic act of retribution against a woman who had dared to assert her agency. Coelho's narrative suggests that Mata Hari was judged not only for her actions but for her very identity—an identity that society found threatening and unacceptable. Her story serves as a critique of a society that is quick to scapegoat those who do not conform, and that often targets women who challenge the status quo.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, *The Spy* is a profound meditation on the tragic consequences of a life lived in defiance of societal norms. Through the character of Mata Hari, Coelho explores the complex dynamics of freedom, identity, relationships, and societal judgment. Mata Hari's life, as portrayed in the novel, is a tragic example of how an individual's pursuit of autonomy can be stifled by the very forces they seek to escape. Coelho's narrative invites readers to reflect on the broader implications of her story, particularly in relation to contemporary issues of gender, power, and identity. The tragedy of Mata Hari's life lies not only in her execution but in the way her story reflects the timeless struggle of individuals, especially women, to assert their identity in a world that often seeks to suppress it. Coelho's *The Spy* thus remains a powerful and relevant exploration of the human condition, offering insights into the enduring tensions between personal freedom and societal expectations.

## REFERENCE

Abrams, M. H. (1953). *The Mirror and the Lamp*. London: Oxford University Press.

Coelho, P. (2016). *The Spy*. London: Hutchinson.

---. (2016). *Mata Hari*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.

Eds, T. G. (2014). *The Sparkling of Mandela's Heart*.

Griffith, K. (2011). *Writing Essay about Literature: Eight Edition*. Canada: Nelson Education, Ltd.

- Kinayati Djojuroto and Sumaryati, M. (2002). *Prinsip-Prinsip Dasar Penelitian Bahasa & Sastra*. Bandung: Yayasan Nuansa Cendekia.
- Long, William J. (1919). *English Literature*. The United States of America: Gin and Company.
- Mamentu, A. C. (2008). Women's Fantasy Viewed from Biological and Cultural Aspect (A Study on Popular Literature). *Journal of English Culture, Language, Literature, and Education* 2, 367-380.
- Maru, Mister Gideon. (2014) *Featuring And Ideal Woman in Ibsen's Ghost*. Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya 1.
- Rombepajung, P. A. (2009). Bravery and Loneliness Reflected in the Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway. *Jurnal Ilmiah Bahasa dan Seni* 7, 60-69.
- Schmidt, Dennis J. (2001). *On Germans Other Greeks: Tragedy and Ethical Life*. United Stated of America: Indiana University Press.
- Sujarweni, V. W. (2014). *Metodologi Penelitian*. Yogyakarta: Pustakabarupress.
- Ray, Bradbury. (1994). *Zen in the Art of Writing*. The United States of America: Joshua Odell Editions.
- Trimble, Michael. (2012). *Why Human Like To Cry: Tragedy, Evolution, and the Brain*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.