



The Cruciality of Self-Determination on James Baldwin's *Bruce and the Spider*

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Abstract

This paper exposes the crucial points of self-determination in flash fiction of James Baldwin entitled *Bruce and the Spider*. The short story is a narrative that describes a brief moment in the life of the main character, Bruce, a Scottish king who was defeated many times by the King of England. When he saw a spider weaving its web in the corner of his retreat, this moment became symbolic in Bruce's emotional journey and self-determination within himself and the kingdom of Scotland. In this flash fiction, it is witnessed how Bruce struggles in the midst of his repeated failures. Using qualitative research method, this article illustrates small changes in perception and courage and asks questions about how simple moments can have a profound impact on a person's life. This writing is supported by Self-Determination Theory as conceptualized by Richard M. Ryan and Edward L. Deci. Through explorative approach, the analysis includes how self-determination accompanies the reflections of the meanings behind simple actions and the importance of facing failure. In conclusion, it is self-determination through self-confidence, self-understanding, and self-reliance that directs King Bruce to defeat his despair, get back up, and beat back the English soldiers.

Keywords: *Bruce and the Spider, James Baldwin, Self-Determination*

Abstrak

Tulisan ini memaparkan poin krusial penentuan diri dalam fiksi James Baldwin berjudul *Bruce and the Spider*. Cerita ini menggambarkan momen singkat dalam kehidupan tokoh utama, Bruce, seorang raja Skotlandia yang berkali-kali dikalahkan oleh Raja Inggris. Ketika ia melihat seekor laba-laba menjalin jaringnya di sudut tempat peristirahatannya, momen ini menjadi simbol dalam perjalanan emosional dan penentuan diri Bruce dalam dirinya dan kerajaan Skotlandia. Cerita ini melukiskan perjuangan Bruce di tengah kegagalan yang berulang kali dialaminya. Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, artikel ini menggambarkan bagaimana perubahan kecil pada persepsi dan keberanian bisa berdampak besar pada kehidupan seseorang. Tulisan ini didukung oleh Self-Determination Theory atau Teori Penentuan Diri yang dipaparkan oleh Richard M. Ryan dan Edward L. Deci. Melalui pendekatan eksploratif, analisis tulisan ini membahas bagaimana penentuan diri menyertai refleksi makna di balik tindakan sederhana dan pentingnya menghadapi kegagalan. Kesimpulannya, penentuan diri melalui kepercayaan diri, pemahaman diri, dan kemandirian mengarahkan Raja Bruce untuk mengalahkan keputusannya, bangkit kembali, dan memukul mundur tentara Inggris.

Kata kunci: *Bruce and the Spider, James Baldwin, Penentuan Diri*

Introduction

In the world of literature, stories of self-determination are often woven into narratives that transcend time and culture. One such compelling tale can be found in James Baldwin's flash fiction entitled *Bruce and the Spider* where the lesson imparted by a tiny creature to the Scottish king becomes important. The short story captures a crucial moment in the life of Bruce, a Scottish king who is repeatedly defeated by the English King (Badwin, 2015). The narrative unfolds as Bruce observes a spider weaving a web in the corner of his retreat. Though seemingly trivial, this moment symbolizes Bruce's emotional journey and self-determination for himself and the kingdom of Scotland. Witnessing Bruce's struggle amidst repeated failures, this story highlights the profound impact of a seemingly ordinary moment.

The narrative invites the audience to contemplate the deeper meaning behind seemingly ordinary actions and underscores the importance of facing failure. Through the lens of Bruce and the spider, this journal aims to investigate the transformative power of self-determination. The research argues that even the smallest gesture can have profound implications, as depicted in James Baldwin's literary work (Badwin, 2015). Ultimately, the unwavering determination within King Bruce overcame his despair, allowing him to rise again and repel the English forces. This exploration into the depths of determination and resilience is a testament to the enduring power of literature in illuminating the human experience.

There are some previous studies that have been composed related to this current research. The first study is done by Wikaningtyas, et al. in 2023 entitled *Turnover Intention Model: Self-Determination Theory Approach*. This research employs self-determination theory in the matters of mental workload in a hospital in Yogyakarta (Wikaningtyas, et al., 2023), Indonesia. This study finds that mental workload does not have direct influence on turnover intention, but it is mediated by need for competence frustration and need for relatedness frustration. The similarity of this research with the current one is that both use idea of self-determination. Meanwhile, the difference lies on the object of the research. The former uses mental workload in nurses, while the latter uses Baldwin's flash fiction as the object. The second one is written by Annamalai, et al., in 2023 entitled *Exploring English language learning via Chatbot: A case study from a self determination theory perspective*. This study explains how Chatbot may affect any self-determination in studying English language (Annamalai, et al., 2023). Blended learning is used to deal with any dependence to Chatbot and to enhance the pupils' self-determination against learning foreign language. This study has similarity with this current research in employing self-determination theory. The difference is located on the object since this research puts focus on undergraduate students who learn English while this article underlines Baldwin's literary work as the main object.

The third research is composed by Rosli and Saleh in 2022 entitled *Technology enhanced learning acceptance among university students during Covid-19: Integrating the full spectrum of Self-Determination Theory and self-efficacy into the Technology Acceptance Model*". This study explores how students may cope with ideas of technology enhanced learning in amidst of COVID-19 pandemic era (Rosli & Saleh, 2022). It is underlined that students' motivation has changed due to pandemic condition in which they are pushed to learn technology more as regulated in their universities. This study has similarity in using self-determination theory

compared to the current article. Meanwhile, this article uses Baldwin's short story as the object while Rosli and Saleh's writing employs university students to analyze their adaptation to technology enhanced learning. The fourth research is analyzed by Ahmadi, et al. in 2023 entitled *A classification system for teachers' motivational behaviors recommended in self-determination theory interventions*. This research explores how teachers' behaviors are crucial in improving educational outcomes. Motivations are proven to be the main determination for teachers to go forward in education (Ahmadi, et al., 2023). This research has similarity in employing self-determination theory compared to this current study. The difference is the object; the former focuses on teachers' behaviors while the latter underlines Baldwin's flash fiction.

The four previous studies above indicate the novelty of this current research. Self-determination theory has never been used to analyze Baldwin's fiction entitled *Bruce and the Spider*. By stating so, self-determination that is quite related to psychological discipline could also expand literary analysis throughout the examination of Baldwin's story. The novelty of this research is also including the crucial point of flash fiction compared to other canon literary works such as novels and dramas. The usage of self-determination theory could also enhance the importance of trivial points of flash fictions. These kinds of literary works may also find its important posture by employing various multidiscipline aspects against traditional literary theories.

Furthermore, Baldwin's fiction is analyzed by Self-Determination Theory (SDT) by Ryan and Deci's theory published in 2012. This theory underlines how any determination is used to be individual since it is related to inner psychological motivation (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017). The motivation may not always be positive, but also negative, and may be so hurtful. It may be caused by bad things either, but indeed it may result to further goodness at least for the individuals. In this case, SDT may also enhance personality development towards better and improved self-understanding, self-reliance, and self-confidence (Deci & Ryan, 2012; Ingerslev, 2020).

Method

By using qualitative method, certain concepts and written data are analyzed to answer the question in this paper. Written through description, online and offline scripts are used to explain correlations between flash fiction of *Bruce and The Spider* written by James Baldwin with Self-Determination theory by Richard M. Ryan and Edward L. Deci in 2012 alongside literary concepts and psychological ideas. Online and offline scripts are derived from journals and articles to understand shown matters. The data analysis includes obtaining sources, reading sources carefully, comparing with other issues, quoting into paper, and writing down in reference lists. The research data comes from both Baldwin's flash fiction in 1896 and Ryan & Deci theory in 2012. Each of them is read then broken down into its every particular element. The discourses of the short story are mainly included to pinpoint significance of superiority complex through the premises and logics used in Ryan & Deci's Self-Determination theory. The following analyses then include how Small

moments that are taken for granted have a big impact on a person's life. Here, Baldwin's flash fiction is the object while Ryan & Deci theory is a tool to analyze.

Result and Discussion

The Chronicles of The Failures and The Raising of The King

The story of Bruce and the Spider was written by James Baldwin in 1896 to show the self-determination that existed in the King of Scotland, namely Bruce. At that time, Scotland had to swallow the bitter reality that they had been defeated by the British Empire (Badwin, 2015). The desperate King Bruce exiled himself in a cave, where he gained valuable experience from a spider. King Bruce has been so desperate with his own destiny. Then, how the spider behaves slowly changes the perspectives of the King towards his own failures.

In this narrative, there are several key elements that illustrate how self-confidence, self-esteem, self-reliance, and self-understanding affect King Bruce's level of self-determination. These are intertwined and form an epic lesson in the story. In the following analysis, the data of the chronicles of the King of Scotland is depicted furthermore.

Data 1

"He had need to be both brave and wise, for the times in which he lived were wild and rude." (Badwin, 2015)

The above quote highlights how King Bruce had to live his life. In this case, King Bruce had a deep self-understanding in dealing with difficult situations. Bruce was faced with wild and rough times. In order to survive, he had to understand his strengths, weaknesses, and values. Bruce not only understood himself, but also took courageous and wise steps to face those difficult times (Badwin, 2015). Deep self-understanding helped King Bruce understand the complex dynamics in difficult situations and create strategies accordingly. This illustrates that self-understanding is not just about self-introspection, but also about the integration of that understanding within a broader context.

With deep self-understanding, one can develop responses that are more purposeful and appropriate to their personal characteristics (Postolati, 2018; Sarmi, et al., 2023). In the context of the quote, King Bruce not only recognized his internal aspects, but was also able to practically apply this understanding in dealing with difficult situations. This shows that deep self-understanding is not only reflective, but also proactive in guiding individuals in making decisions and acting effectively. The sentence also highlights the relevance of the quote to self-understanding theory, reflecting how the depth of it can have a significant impact in shaping the way one responds and acts in the face of challenges and difficulties in life (Postolati, 2018; Sarmi, et al., 2023). Self-understanding theory suggests that individuals who have a high level of self-understanding tend to be able to recognize and interpret various aspects of themselves, such as values, strengths and weaknesses.

Data 2

"Six times had Bruce led his brave little army against his foes;" (Badwin, 2015)

The quote occurred when Bruce had to lead his small army and was no match for the resistance of the large English army. This can be related to the application of the principles of self-reliance theory, which emphasizes self-reliance, emphasizing the importance of relying on personal abilities and resources in facing challenges (Garnet, 2011; Xu, et al., 2023). In the context of this quote, Bruce, as a leader, actively leads his own troops, which are described as small but brave. This action shows that Bruce does not only rely on external forces or help, but also has the determination and faith in himself and his troops to face the enemy.

Self-reliance theory emphasizes the importance of relying on personal abilities and resources in the face of challenges (Garnet, 2011; Xu, et al., 2023). In this case, Bruce did not rely on the size of his army or external help. Instead, he demonstrated self-reliance by leading his own small army. Although the size may be small, the courage and determination possessed by the army reflects an internal strength that can be an advantage in the face of a larger enemy (Badwin, 2015).

Data 3

"With still more care, she made ready to try for the seventh time." (Badwin, 2015)

This sentence refers to the perseverance and passion shown by the spider in the story. The spider is trying for the seventh time to build its web after six failed attempts. The emphasis on "still more care" highlights the spider's grit and determination to keep trying (Badwin, 2015). In the context of the theory of self-reliance, this idea is linked to the concepts of personal independence and determination. Self-reliance teaches the importance of trusting oneself, acting with determination, and not giving in to failure (Postolati, 2018; Sarmi, et al., 2023). The spider that keeps trying to build its web reflects this spirit where persistence and the courage to keep trying are the keys to success. Within strong self-reliance, there is an emphasis on the ability of individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their own goals. The story of the spider not giving up even after several failures reflects this belief in the power of individual determination to overcome challenges and achieve success.

Data 4

He was tired and sick at heart, and ready to give up all hope. It seemed to him that there was no use for him to try to do anything more. (Baldwin, 2015)

This quote occurs when Bruce has been defeated by the British Empire and he has gone into exile. This quote reflects Bruce's psychological state of exhaustion and despair (Badwin, 2015). Bruce has reached a point where he feels he is no longer able to cope or achieve his expectations. In the context of self-understanding theory, this context includes an awareness of his emotional state that affects his motivation and ability to act (Postolati, 2018; Sarmi, et al., 2023). Bruce reflects the value in himself who has failed to achieve his goal. By feeling pointless to try again, he is facing internal conflict and deep questions about his identity and value. This reflects the role of self-understanding theory in helping individuals internalize and understand their various emotional and psychological aspects in the face of life's challenges (Kim & Ahn, 2021; Klusman, 2022).

Data 5

"I, too, will try a seventh time!" cried Bruce. (Baldwin, 2015)

This line uttered by King Robert Bruce reflects strong determination and self-belief. At the time, Bruce was inspired by the perseverance of a spider trying to build its web for the seventh time, despite failing six times previously (Badwin, 2015). In the context of self-confidence theory, this expression illustrates how self-belief can change the outlook towards failure. Bruce, who was initially discouraged because he failed six times, regained his confidence after seeing the spider who experienced the same thing but eventually succeeded too.

Data 6

He arose and called his men together. He told them of his plans, and sent them out with messages of cheer to his disheartened people. (Baldwin, 1896)

This sentence describes the actions of King Bruce after being inspired by the seventh attempt of the spider. After gaining encouragement and confidence from the spider's unyielding struggle, Bruce got up and gathered with his army. In the context of self-confidence theory, this action reflects how individual self-confidence can extend to the surrounding environment (Kim & Ahn, 2021; Klussman, 2022). Bruce rising up and motivating his troops shows that his self-confidence plays an important role in influencing the mood and spirit of those around him. Giving a message of encouragement to his discouraged troops reflects that self-confidence can be a positive driver in overcoming challenges and inspiring others to keep fighting.

In other words, Bruce's actions after gaining confidence from the spider story is an example of how self-confidence can be a source of power that not only affects himself but also those around him. The story of *Bruce and the Spider* presents a rich picture of how the concept of self-determination manifests in the journey of the main character (Badwin, 2015). This analysis provides an in-depth understanding of the dynamic relationship between self-confidence, self-esteem, self-reliance, and self-understanding in forming a strong foundation of self-determination in the context of a short but meaningful narrative.

Self-Determination and Prolonging of Psychological Well-Being

Self-Determination is an important thing for all humans to have. Through that concept, a person could gain the power to control every source within her/himself in order to get the desired results from an action (Allo & Priawan, 2019; Wirnoto, et al., 2023). When humans understand the abilities and weaknesses that exist within themselves, and can control them well, it will not matter how big the challenges or obstacles that are in front of them when they want to achieve their big goals. Achieving goals has a profound significance in the lives of individuals and society, especially in gaining better psychological well-being in terms of improved skills and knowledge. The process of achieving goals requires effort, dedication and learning from experience (Orth & Robins, 2022; Xu, 2023). Therefore, individuals who strive to achieve their goals often develop new skills and generate new experiences, deeper knowledge and the capacity to overcome challenges. This not only enhances the individual's capabilities, but also benefits both the individual themselves and those around them, which is influenced by how individuals determine their own destiny.

Self-Determination Theory, or SDT, links personality, human motivation, and optimal functioning. It posits that there are two main types of motivation—*intrinsic* and *extrinsic*—and that both are powerful forces in shaping who we are and how we behave (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017). SDT is an approach to human motivation and personality that uses traditional empirical methods while employing the importance of humans' evolved inner resources for personality development and behavioral self-regulation (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Wirnoto, et al., 2023). Later on, such a subject encompasses the human psychological aspects of reading and appreciating literature and is included in literary psychology of SDT.

SDT has become a highly influential theory of human motivation and well-being with a vast body of research evidence. It offers a blueprint for understanding the motivational basis of personality and social behavior, and of the relation of basic psychological needs to well-being, psychological flourishing, and high quality of life (Orth & Robins, 2022; Xu, 2023). Diverging from most historical and contemporary approaches to human motivation that have treated motivation as a unitary concept, SDT instead has focused on varied forms of motivation, from autonomous to controlled one, to predict outcomes such as performance, engagement, vitality, and psychological health.

The theory in particular distinguishes between autonomous and controlled motivations. To be autonomous involves acting with a full sense of volition, endorsement, and choice, whereas, to be controlled involves feeling externally pressurized or compelled to behave by the promise of a contingent reward, fear of punishment, ego involvement, or other external factors (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017). Within the framework of self-determination theory itself, there are several indicators of the theory that can be identified to fully understand the concept and application of the theory. Those are self-understanding, self-reliance, and self-confidence.

The first one is about self-understanding. It is a complex concept defined as the cognitive representation of self, one's interest in self and individuality (Allo & Priawan, 2019; Wirnoto, 2023). It is a matter of subjective representation of psychological properties and abilities. The idea of self is known through matters of self-awareness in which someone understands her/himself as a whole who is conscious of her/his own circumstances and surroundings. The sense of self then includes ideas of both being individual and social. No one could escape the duality of those aspects. someone may be so individual in her/his psychological matters. Anything that she/he does is known as a whole. In this part, being an individual is also being conscious about anything about the inner self (Orth & Robins, 2022; Xu, 2023). Meanwhile, any person is also social. No one could live without any people. Even if someone lives alone, she/he still needs any kind of good provided by other people. Moreover, being social also means sharing knowledge with other people. This idea never erodes matters of being individual, but enriches understanding of one's own self both in matters of inner and outer self.

The second one is self-reliance. It is commonly defined as the capacity to rely on oneself or one's own capabilities to meet one's personal needs. The main idea of this is depending merely on one's own self with less help from any other person (Allo & Priawan, 2019; Wirnoto, 2023). Synonym of self-reliance is a form of self-rule.

This is a matter of autonomy in which someone should always know what she/he does everyday and even every time. When people understand their own idea of being autonomous, then she/he could easily find her/his real self. By stating so, self-reliance is not merely about being egotistical at all. It is since self-reliance could also contribute more to social spheres (Orth & Robins, 2022; Xu, 2023). Then, when someone is capable for her/himself, she/he could also be more useful to other people. It is because those who have high self-reliance may also have more power to empower more people as well.

The third one is self-confidence. The indicator of this concept is the high self-esteem in which someone may always appreciate her/himself. Being confident about oneself is never wrong since it could always enhance hope to reach better success in the future (Deci & Ryan, 2012; Ingerslev, 2020). This could also support more self-concept since any degradation of quality of self is always diminished. This is also related to further self-control since those who are confident are always ready to hold her/himself towards further competitions. It is also related to any psychological thinking of self. This is the idea of perception of self. If someone thinks positively about her/his own self, then higher self-confidence could be attained further either (Schaumberg & Flynn, 2017; Annasai, 2023). Moreover, being positive about one's own understanding is also related to having more knowledge about self-condition. In this sense, being self-confident also reflects knowing more about the strengths and weaknesses of oneself.

The Struggles and Determinations in Bruce and the Spider

The flash fiction of *Bruce and the Spider* is better explained under the concept of self-determination. The story draws the struggle and determination of the main character, Bruce, to achieve his goals despite facing various obstacles. Like a spider that tirelessly rebuilds its web after being expelled, Bruce also shows perseverance and the spirit to bounce back after failure (Badwin, 2015). As Ryan & Deci's SDT links personality, human motivation, and optimal functioning it posits that there are two main types of motivation—intrinsic and extrinsic—and that both are powerful forces in shaping who people are and how they behave (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017).

In data 1, the quotation shows how Bruce has to live in a cruel era, so he has to adjust connections with self-understanding theory through an individual's understanding of social context. In self-understanding theory, an individual can construct his or her own profile of abilities and skills for interrelated and interacting with the world (Martin, 2017; Hong, 2018). Individuals are expected to recognize and understand their role in the wider social context. The scene of the story indicates that Bruce has a need to be brave and wise in the face of the wild and rude circumstances of his time.

In the context of self-understanding theory, self-understanding includes not only awareness of personal identity, but also engagement in wise decision-making based on that understanding (Schaumberg & Flynn, 2017; Annasai, 2023). In the quotation, Bruce realizes that the social circumstances around him require courage and wisdom to survive and thrive. By understanding his role in this difficult environment, Bruce becomes wiser in acting or responding to things that happen in

these difficult times. By stating so, he also once again finds his stronger self-esteem in the following.

In data 2, this quotation shows Bruce being a leader who led his troops in six battles against his enemies. This action reflects Bruce's self-reliance in facing challenges and conflicts (Badwin, 2015). This reflects the application of the principles of self-reliance theory, which emphasizes independence, courage, and belief in oneself. Self-reliance is commonly defined as the capacity to rely on oneself or one's own capabilities to meet one's personal needs (Schaumberg & Flynn, 2017; Annasai, 2023). Not only the main character, Bruce, but also his troops collectively rely on their own strength to face the enemy. Thus, this excerpt can be attributed to the theory of self-reliance as it describes how both the main character and his troops collectively rely on their own strength and confidence in facing the enemy (Martin, 2017; Hong, 2018).

Moreover, a self-reliant leader does not rely solely on physical strength or external support, but also understands the importance of belief in oneself and in one's troops. Bruce's actions in leading his small, but brave, army illustrate that in the face of adversity, self-reliance is not just a concept, but an attitude and a concrete action that can change the dynamics of resistance. Thus, the quote illustrates how the application of the principle of self-reliance can provide strength and propulsion in the face of fierce challenges (Martin, 2017; Hong, 2018).

In data 3, this quotation shows how the spider decides to make the seventh attempt. This can be related to self-reliance theory, especially in the context of perseverance, independence, and determination to keep trying despite previous failures. In self-reliance theory, self-reliance is related to control over decision making (Deci & Ryan, 2012; Ingerslev, 2020).

The use of the phrase "with still more care" illustrates the extra diligence and care given by this character (Badwin, 2015). It is indeed emphasizing that he not only tries again, but also puts in more effort. This action demonstrates the individual's ability to stay focused on his goals, even after experiencing previous failures. This is also part of his resilience that is in line with the strength of self-esteem and self-confidence either.

In data 4, this quotation illustrates how Bruce understands his position, acknowledging that there is no hope for victory. In the context of self-understanding theory, individuals strive to comprehend and internalize various aspects of themselves, including their circumstances (Badwin, 2015). Concerning self-esteem, the quote reflects a moment when the character experiences a decline in self-worth and doubts the value or contribution of their efforts (Mobius, 2022; Nath & Bhuvan, 2023). The statement that there is nothing more they can do reflects a sense of despair and a loss of confidence in oneself, which can have a negative impact on self-esteem. The process of self-understanding in this context indeed involves deep reflection on personal values, life goals, and the ability to overcome obstacles (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017).

In data 5, this quotation indicates a high level of self-confidence by expressing determination to try again after six previous failures. Self-confidence involves an individual's belief in their own abilities and skills, as well as the belief that they can overcome challenges and achieve goals (Mobius, 2022; Nath &

Bhuvan, 2023). It reflects a connection with the theory of self-confidence. In this context, self-confidence is defined as an individual's self-assessed probability of being a high achiever. Linked to the theory of self-confidence, the quotation truly reflects self-assurance and can have a significant impact on how individuals perceive failure. In the context of high self-confidence, failure is not seen as the end of everything but as a challenge or obstacle that can be overcome (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017).

In data 6, in this quote, Bruce not only rises again after facing failure but also takes proactive action to gather his troops. This action reflects a high level of self-confidence, where the leader not only sustains his own spirit but also strives to uplift the spirits of his comrades. This also reflects a connection with the theory of self-confidence, particularly in the context of leadership that demonstrates belief and optimism to motivate others (Mobius, 2022; Nath & Bhuvan, 2023). In the theory of self-confidence, the leader's belief in oneself is crucial in achieving goals and overcoming challenges collectively. Self-confidence is our judgment of whether or not we can do something and if we can obtain the resources to conduct the work. In the context of the theory of self-confidence, an individual's self-confidence is a key element in building collective resilience (Ryan & Deci, 2000; Martin, 2017). When people around the main character see him overcoming failure with confidence, it can stimulate the development of shared resilience in facing obstacles and difficulties.

All of the data above is proof that Bruce is building self-determination by reflecting on an event when he meets a hard-working spider. He knows that he must not surrender at all. He must always rely on himself since many people including his soldiers also depend on him (Badwin, 2015). This situation pushes more self-confidence in himself that later shapes his will to go on. This is also in line with his self-esteem and self-understanding that he forgets to understand his strength this far. Then, he realizes that the main idea is always to try again and again without any worry that defeat will come. Consequently, he wins at the end (Badwin, 2015).

Conclusion

The short story of Baldwin indeed shows how self-determination could strengthen the existence of individuals towards wider societies. The self-determination involved in the story are self-understanding, self-reliance and self-confidence. As self-understanding, Bruce as the main character makes him able to put himself in the right position in all situations. The self-understanding that exists in the main character also makes him realize his most difficult position. The self-reliance in Bruce made him rely on himself in his most difficult situation and this also affected his troops so that they were able to try harder with the lead of Bruce himself. The self-confidence that exists in Bruce after seeing the success of the spider for the seventh time made him rise again after his desperation. The self-confidence that exists in Bruce indeed also affects the people around him, namely his troops to believe again that they are able to turn defeat into success. All of the three aspects underline that self-determination can influence not only one's own self but also people around him.

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