

Surrealism and Spiritual Transformation in Paulo Coelho's *The Valkyries*: A Linguistic and Thematic Analysis

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Abstract—This paper analyzes the surrealist elements in Paulo Coelho's *The Valkyries*, highlighting how the author blends reality, myth, and spirituality to construct a surreal narrative. Using thematic and discourse analysis within the frameworks of surrealism theory (Breton), systemic functional linguistics (Halliday), and poetic language functions (Jakobson), the study examines Coelho's narrative strategies that blur the boundaries between conscious reality and subconscious imagination. Elements such as dream-like imagery, unexpected juxtapositions, symbolism, and transformations are systematically traced to reveal the psychological and spiritual journeys of the characters. The linguistic structure, particularly the use of metaphors, symbolic language, and shifting narrative voices, reinforces the surrealist effect and facilitates emotional engagement with the reader's subconscious. By interpreting Coelho's depiction of mythological figures, guardian angels, and personal transformation, the paper argues that *The Valkyries* serves not only as a spiritual quest but also as an exploration of the human psyche. This study concludes that Coelho's integration of surrealist techniques with linguistic innovations offers new perspectives on spiritual literature, demonstrating the enduring relevance of surrealism in contemporary narratives.

Index Terms—surrealism, Paulo Coelho, *The Valkyries*, spiritual journey, linguistic analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

Andre Breton, an artist in Paris, in his *The Surrealist Manifesto* (1924), used the term Surrealism as "pure psychic automatism, by which one proposes to express, either verbally in writing, or by any other manner, the real functioning of thought. Dictation of thought in the absence of all control exercised by reason, outside of all aesthetic and moral preoccupation" (Tate, 2023). As the spokesperson, Breton further explains that surrealism connects reality and fantasy to the real world, and it is the union of conscious and unconscious experiences of the individual. French Avant-garde poet Guillaume Apollinaire coined the word 'Surrealist' in the preface of a play performed in 1917. The movement aims to find magic and beauty in uncanny things beyond the human imagination. To challenge the rules of society and gain freedom of individuality stands as a core idea of surrealism. The surrealism movement has led artists to seek political freedom as an expression of a liberating mind and liberating artistic expression. During World War I & II, a movement called Surrealism in art and literature evolved in Europe. Unlike the Dada movement, surrealism focused on positive expression. Surrealism became popular in paintings, and artists started to project the psychic investigations of humans. The renowned painters of the movement were Hieronymus Bosch, Francisco Goya, Odilon Redon, Giorgio de Chirico, and Marc Chagall.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the book review for *The Valkyries* by Paulo Coelho, the reviewer calls the piece of writing a combination of wishes, dreams, and empowerment for women. The concept of a Valkyrie reflects the importance of women in all fields who act for a bigger cause, like an angel in others' lives. "The Valkyries is described as a metaphorical journey that explores women's roles as spiritual agents" (The Sydney Feminists, 2019). The locals loathe the Valkyries, but they continue

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their visionary journey unaffected. The reviewer asserts that women possess greater power than men, citing the belief that every man's success is attributed to a woman and that Valhalla was instrumental in realizing Coelho's dream. Coelho's blending of the surreal with the real in *The Valkyries* has been compared to other surrealist works in literature. Critics have noted that Coelho, much like Gabriel García Márquez in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, uses surrealism to communicate profound truths about human existence. Both authors blend the fantastical with the mundane to comment on the spiritual and psychological experiences of their characters. Scholars such as Craven (2019) argue that Coelho's use of surreal elements is not merely a stylistic choice but a narrative technique that facilitates the character's spiritual awakening. This idea resonates with the broader trend in contemporary literature where surrealism is employed to explore inner realities rather than outer ones, a theme central to Coelho's work. But in Valhalla's case, she encountered her angel alone, and that shows the power of women.

Paulo Coelho's novel *The Valkyries* initially sparks curiosity, but ultimately falters as it grapples with the question of why Coelho yearns to see his angel. As Coelho explores spiritual journeys, surrealism allows him to merge the real and imaginary to guide the reader through a transformational process (Craven, 2019). However, the epilogue of the novel reveals that forgetting the past and focusing on the present are important for pursuing one's dream. As always, the book has quotes of wisdom and inspiration for life (Jzhunagev, 2011).

The research article *Art in the Dream World* focuses on the concept of surrealism and its elements, which are inclined towards the surrealism movement. Surrealism is the merging of conventional reality with the subconscious dream, which goes beyond the human imagination. The movement is interdisciplinary as it has roots in various fields like music, theater, and literature. It was influenced by other artistic forms as well. Surrealism has extracted ideas from Dadaism, but it has its unique style of formatting and approach. Surrealism became famous in art during World War II (Fu, 2022).

The research paper *Pulp Surrealism* talks about the evolution of surrealism into pulp surrealism. Both artistic ideas and societal psychological anxiety influenced surrealism. It borrowed elements from fantastic popular fiction and sensationalistic journalism. The paper focuses on the emergence of surrealism during early 20th-century Paris. Pulp surrealism explores the historical perspectives and rebellious ideas of the surrealist movement, which connected print culture and mass surrealism. The author has taken four case studies to validate the prominence of popular fiction and journalism on surrealism (WALZ, 2023).

Paulo Coelho is a famous Brazilian author known for his renowned work *The Alchemist*, which has been sold worldwide. Some of his prominent works are *The Pilgrimage*, *Brida*, *Veronica Decides to Die*, *The Zahir*, *Aleph*, and so on. Coelho mainly focuses on the quest for knowledge, philosophy of life, self-discovery, spirituality, and love. The piece *The Valkyries* is a Portuguese work written by Paulo Coelho and translated into English by Alan R. Clarke in 1995 by Harper Collins. It is autobiographical, where Coelho projects an optimistic vision towards humanity. Themes like love, dreams, magic, hope, and Religion can be traced in the novel. The author and his wife embark on a forty-day pilgrimage to the Mojave Desert, and it is narrated in the third-person perspective. The objective of the paper is to identify surrealist elements in the selected novel.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is primarily framed using the surrealist theory proposed by André Breton (1924) and the linguistic construction of reality as analyzed through Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday (1994) and the poetic function of language by Jakobson (1960). Furthermore, the psychological frameworks of Freud's theory of the unconscious and Jung's concept of individuation have been incorporated to interpret the transformation and inner journeys of the characters. Recent scholarly interpretations by Mendes (2022) and Ionescu (2023) further contextualize the contemporary relevance of surrealism in narrative constructions.

Surrealism evolved as a philosophical and cultural movement in the 20th century. Surrealism is an expression of the unconscious mind, often through automatic writing, which allows authors to bypass the constraints of logic and reason (Breton, 1924). The study of surrealism in literature, particularly in Coelho's *The Valkyries*, involves the application of thematic analysis. This study expands the analysis by employing discourse analysis to explore how Coelho's use of language structures surreal experiences. Discourse analysis allows us to explore the relationship between language and power, examining how language constructs reality and fantasy within the text. Coelho's linguistic choices, particularly his use of metaphor, symbolism, and narrative voice, disrupt the boundary between the real and the imagined, aligning with surrealism's intent to challenge conventional interpretations of reality. This analysis also utilizes Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which examines how language functions within the context of communication. Halliday's framework, particularly the ideational and interpersonal functions, is useful in understanding how Coelho's narrative language constructs new meanings and emotional responses by blending real-world settings with surreal images. To further understand how surrealism operates within Coelho's narrative, this study incorporates a linguistic analysis of his writing style. By examining linguistic structures, narrative voice, and discourse analysis, we can see how Coelho's language constructs surreal meanings that transcend the boundaries of the ordinary. The narrative voice in *The Valkyries* shifts between first-person and third-person perspectives which creates an atmosphere where the boundary between the self and the world becomes blurred. This mirrors the surrealist focus on the fluidity of consciousness and the elusive nature of reality. Additionally, metaphors and symbolism within the narrative are not merely decorative; they

are central to the surreal elements of the story. Coelho's use of dream-like imagery, where symbolic representations of the divine and mystical intersect with reality, allows the reader to engage with the story on an emotional and psychological level rather than purely intellectual. This analysis identifies the surreal elements that disrupt the narrative's natural flow and highlights the themes of self-discovery and spiritual growth. To analyze the surrealistic nature of Coelho's text, this paper draws on the work of linguists such as Benveniste (1971) and Jakobson (1960). Benveniste's theory of subjectivity in language emphasizes how language constructs individual identity, a concept central to the transformation that Coelho's characters undergo. In the surreal world of *The Valkyries*, the subjectivity of the characters is constantly in flux, as they navigate between the real world and surreal experiences. Jakobson's poetic function of language suggests that the use of metaphor and symbolism in the text is not merely descriptive but also constructs new meanings and emotional responses. Through these symbols, Coelho creates a psychological space where the characters, like the reader, can confront and reconcile their inner fears and desires. Additionally, psychological theories on the unconscious mind, such as Freud's id, ego, and superego, and Jung's theory of individuation, are instrumental in analyzing how Coelho's characters, especially Christina and Coelho himself, undergo a process of transformation through surreal experiences. These theoretical frameworks provide a lens through which the integration of surreal and real elements in Coelho's narrative can be understood as more than just stylistic choices but as mechanisms of spiritual and psychological growth. Poets, creative artists, and writers found a way to liberate the mind and creativity through the surrealism movement. According to Pinto (Pinot's Palette, 2024), the recurring themes in surrealistic art are dreams and nightmares, desires and eroticism, nature and the organic world, childhood and innocence, the uncanny and the absurd, "Surrealism often explores the subconscious, presenting fragmented images and unexpected combinations that challenge the logical mind" (Fu, 2022), identity and self, and the following are the elements of surrealism:

1. Dream-like imagery
2. Unexpected juxtapositions
3. Automatism
4. Symbolism and metaphor
5. Transformation and metamorphosis
6. Focus on the subconscious
7. Contradictory perspectives

Linguistic Theories and Surrealism

In analyzing the surrealist language of *The Valkyries*, we turn to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which focuses on the ideational, interpersonal, and textual functions of language. Coelho's language in *The Valkyries* constructs a world where the boundaries between the conscious and the unconscious, the real and the surreal, are constantly in flux. For example, the use of metaphor in the description of the Mojave Desert invites the reader to interpret the landscape not just as a physical setting but as a symbolic space where the characters confront their inner worlds. Halliday's ideational function is evident here, as the desert is used to represent spiritual emptiness and the possibility of self-discovery.

Further, Coelho's use of Jakobson's poetic function of language enhances the surrealistic nature of the text. According to Jakobson, language can go beyond its referential function and engage the reader on an emotional and aesthetic level. The symbolic language of angels, death, and rebirth in *The Valkyries* creates an emotional and psychological resonance that allows the text to transcend its literal meaning, inviting readers to explore not only the spiritual journey of the characters but also their unconscious desires and fears.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Dream-Like Imagery

The novel *The Valkyries* by Paulo Coelho portrays the pilgrimage of Coelho and his wife, Christina, to the Mojave Desert in search of their guardian angels. The desert, depicted through metaphors like "expanse", "dunes", and "vastness", becomes a symbolic space reflecting the characters' internal emptiness and potential for spiritual awakening. This merging of the physical and metaphysical aligns with Mendes's (2022) analysis of surreal landscapes as psychological terrains in modern narratives.

Coelho's language reinforces surrealism by creating a dream-like quality through metaphoric descriptions and syntactic shifts. Short, fragmented sentences during moments of doubt evoke disjointedness, while long, flowing sentences during spiritual realizations mirror unity between self and universe. This stylistic shift facilitates emotional resonance, guiding readers between conscious experience and subconscious exploration.

The Valkyries themselves, introduced as modern women on motorcycles rather than mythic Norse warriors, further heighten the surrealist effect through unexpected juxtapositions. As Ionescu (2023) notes, the blending of myth with contemporary settings challenges readers' conventional perceptions, inviting multiple layers of interpretation. By portraying mythical women as real-world figures, Coelho blurs the distinction between reality and fantasy, enhancing the surreal atmosphere of the novel.

The dream-like imagery culminates when Coelho envisions his guardian angel at sunrise, leaving readers suspended between belief and imagination. This deliberate ambiguity is a hallmark of surrealist literature, allowing the text to transcend the ordinary confines of storytelling and engage the subconscious mind.

B. Unexpected Juxtapositions

Gene, a young boy, guides Coelho and Chris on the magical path. The juxtaposition of wisdom and age in Gene's character highlights a key surrealist element: the bending of societal norms. Gene, a young boy, serves as a spiritual guide, a role typically reserved for older, more experienced individuals in traditional narratives. By placing wisdom in the hands of the young, Coelho challenges cultural expectations and subverts conventional ideas about age, experience, and authority. This mirrors the broader societal shifts of the 20th century, where traditional hierarchies were being questioned and dismantled in favor of a more individualistic, self-empowered view of personal growth. Surrealism thrives in these unexpected juxtapositions, as they force readers to confront and rethink their assumptions about the world. His wisdom is beyond his age, which inspires Chris to learn about the magical world. Gene initiates Chris on the mystical path so that Coelho can discover himself. Surrealism often introduces paradoxical elements to challenge conventional reality, as evident in the character of Gene, whose wisdom transcends age and societal expectations (Craven, 2019). To a certain extent, Gene teaches Coelho through Chris. Still, thereafter, Gene suggests Coelho find Valkyries to continue with his teaching, as he is unable to teach Coelho according to the magical norms. Through the character Gene, the author conveys that the age to inherit wisdom and spiritual knowledge is just a number. People become the universe's masters when they comprehend their role and identity in the world.

Valkyries are the warrior women who wander on spiritual journeys. When the couple tries to learn more about Valkyries, people offer derogatory opinions, labeling them as lesbians, insane women, or prostitutes. According to Norse mythology, Valkyries are called warrior women in Valhalla under the god Odin. However, this novel portrays them in a different light. The book transforms the mythological appearance into contemporary concepts, such as donning helmets and jackets and riding a bike akin to floating on a cloud. In addition to the surreal blending of mythological and modern elements, Coelho's stylistic choices further enhance the surreal experience. His use of metaphors and symbols in the portrayal of the Valkyries transforms them from mythological figures into modern, empowered women. For instance, the image of the Valkyries, typically depicted in myth as warriors riding horses, is reimaged in Coelho's narrative as women wearing black leather jackets and riding motorbikes. This juxtaposition of the ancient and modern is not only a thematic choice but also a linguistic one, where symbolism and stylistic devices fuse to create a disorienting yet enchanting effect. The narrative voice, often shifting between philosophical reflection and personal revelation, further intensifies this surreal effect, guiding the reader through the layers of reality, dream, and myth that Coelho's characters navigate. Surrealism, as described by Walz (2023), often transforms traditional myths into contemporary forms, blending the fantastical with the real. As always, the central figures of the novel are women characters (Valkyries) who act as the catalyst in steering the journey of Coelho and his wife forward. Coelho believes that women can seed and inspire people with spiritual powers more than men. This reflects a recurring surrealist theme where traditional societal norms are overturned to present women as powerful, spiritual beings (Walz, 2023). Women have always been connected with magic in a negative sense in the past, but Coelho projects them in a positive way to spread love and magic in the world. This concept suits the element of unexpected juxtapositions, where two things are placed in a contrasting effect. Magic and women always project a ray of proximity.

C. Automatism

Mythology, or the mythical stories, has formed the basis for much excellent literature in the world. Writers take the concept of the mythological figures to create a storyline; for example, works like Medea, Achilles, and Oedipus at Colonus are considered classics in literature. The writer has drawn inspiration from Norse mythology to depict the Valkyries of the modern era. According to Norse mythology, Valkyries are a group of maidens serving the god Odin, who were sent to the battlefield to slay the worthy in the place of Valhalla. The Valkyries rode on horses with helmets and shields, and occasionally they flew through the air and sea. Odin is an important god in Scandinavia. Odin was a war god who protected heroes and fallen warriors and accompanied humans in Valhalla. He had a magical horse, Sleipnir, inscribed with runes. Odin was considered the ultimate magician and was also the god of poets with wisdom.

In Norse mythology, Valhalla is a place of slain warriors who lived happily under the protective care of Odin. Valhalla is described as a place in heaven where the warriors enjoy their lives by feasting on the flesh of a boar and drinking from the udders of a goat. Their favorite sport is fighting with each other. In mythology, women warriors flew on horses. They wore helmets to fight in the warland, but in the novel, they are represented as women wearing black leather jackets and helmets on motorbikes. The writer has intelligently used his narrative technique to supersede the fantasy into a real-world-like vision of dreams.

An artist can only pour out their psyche when there is freedom of ideas and freedom of articulating it. In any artistic field, the artist should have the liberty to put forth their ideas. A painter expresses their ideas on the canvas, a musician uses musical notes, a dancer uses movements, and a writer uses their pen. The concept of a guardian angel and its vision play an important role in the plotline. Coelho goes through the ordeals to seek the vision of the angels, which is impossible in the present era. The process of automatism in *The Valkyries* is not just a literary technique but a psychological process that mirrors the journey of self-discovery. Freud's theory of the unconscious mind suggests that

automatism, which bypasses rational thought, allows individuals to access repressed memories and desires. Coelho's journey through the desert, particularly his encounters with his past and the rituals he undergoes, can be seen as a form of automatic writing, allowing his unconscious mind to emerge and reveal hidden truths. This connection between surrealism and psychological automatism deepens the reader's understanding of Coelho's spiritual transformation as a process of reconciling his unconscious fears and desires with his conscious self. But Coelho weaves the storyline beautifully by seeding the concept of love and magic with real-life characters. Automatism means the freedom of painting on the canvas without any restrictions. In the same way, the author has penned down his fantasy world in written form by incorporating his spiritual journey.

D. Symbolism and Metaphor

The author uses symbols and metaphors to represent the magical rituals in the spiritual path of the novel. In the work, J is Coelho's master's magical name, S is the magic name of Coelho, and M is the magic name of Valhalla, revealing the symbolism of their magical incarnations in the magical world. The symbolic language in Coelho's *The Valkyries* is a key component in the surreal construction of reality. According to Jakobson's poetic function, metaphor and symbolism serve not just as stylistic devices but also as tools to create alternative realities. For instance, the concept of the guardian angel is not just a religious symbol but also a metaphor for inner transformation. Coelho's use of angels and death serves as a symbolic bridge between the conscious and unconscious minds, echoing Jungian archetypes. Through these symbols, Coelho creates a psychological space where the reader is encouraged to engage with the text not only at an intellectual level but also on a deeper, emotional, and spiritual plane. Symbols like death, angels, and rituals play a significant role in the novel.

The process of attaining the spiritual goal itself is a metaphor to show that their struggles in the present are the burdens of their past. During a forty-day pilgrimage, Coelho meets the Valkyries, a group wearing flashy black jackets, in a restaurant. Coelho and the head of the Valkyries group, Valhalla, get into conversation and end up revealing their magical name. Valkyries are wanderers who keep on traveling from one place to another. Valhalla, the head of the tribe, is on a mission to go to eleven places to fulfill her identity as part of the Valkyries tradition. Coelho and Chris accompany the Valkyries group for the remaining days to complete the spiritual teaching process. During the process, Chris learns to speak with her guardian angel, and Coelho has to go through three ordeals to see his guardian angel. The name Valhalla, Valkyries, and the spiritual journey stand as a symbol in preaching the message of faith to the readers.

After meeting the Valkyries, Coelho and his wife, Chris, along with Valhalla, move to an old building and perform a ritual where Coelho travels back to his past life, specifically the incident where he dealt with God. Coelho confesses that when he was a lyricist, death took hold of him and his girlfriend. In an attempt to overcome death, Coelho proposes a deal where he pledges to lend all his popularity and love in exchange for saving himself from death: "People destroy what they love" (Coelho, 1988, 2007, p. 212). Following that incident, Coelho faced job loss, imprisonment, and social exclusion. It became a belief that whatever Paulo loved in his life, he would lose it after two years. At present, Coelho is afraid of losing Chris, as he was able to sense the relationship getting strained. The whole scene stands as a symbol of the past and present world.

E. Transformation and Metamorphosis

Benveniste's theory of subjectivity in language helps to explain how Coelho's shifting narrative voice mirrors the transformation of the characters. In *The Valkyries*, the narrative alternates between first-person and third-person perspectives, emphasizing the fluidity of identity and the elusive nature of reality, core principles in surrealism. As the characters shift between the real and the surreal, the use of language creates a subjective experience, inviting readers to question the authenticity of what they perceive.

Moreover, the Freudian unconscious and Jungian archetypes that Coelho uses in his text align with Jakobson's poetic function, where language becomes more than a tool of communication; it is a mechanism for psychological transformation. The repeated imagery of angels, death, and rebirth serves as a symbolic space where the characters (and by extension, the readers) confront their subconscious fears and desires, allowing for a deeper, emotional engagement with the text.

Women, a weak sect of the population, fall victim to sexual abuse and violence at the hands of the patriarchal society. Coelho consistently draws parallels between magic and female characters, highlighting the profound influence it holds within them (Fu, 2022). This idea is evolving day by day into a strong woman who is emotionally as well as physically strong and stands tall in the modern period. Once, women were not allowed in the war and were only confronted with taking care of the family chores; now, they are making their mark in every field of science and technology. Valhalla, the leader, is a typical person who abandons her daily routine and family to follow her guardian angel's guidance. Not only Valhalla, but all the women of the group are uprooted from their normal lives and are on a pilgrimage to seek their purpose in life. These women are branded as gypsies and lesbians, though they feel they are on a spiritual voyage. Coelho consistently draws parallels between magic and female characters, highlighting the profound influence it holds within them. The projection of women with magical powers is the common image in Coelho's writings.

The other important character who transforms is Chris, Paulo Coelho's wife. As Freud (1900) suggests, the subconscious mind plays a significant role in transformation, particularly when individuals confront their deepest fears and desires, who travel from the practical world to the magical journey. Though she knows the mystical path of Paulo

Coelho, she stays away from his world. Gene initiates her into communication with her angel. Throughout the journey, Chris accompanies Coelho on her spiritual path. She discovers her soul and identity through magical initiations. She transforms from an innocent woman into a confident individual. Coelho's linguistic choices not only contribute to the narrative's surrealist quality but also have a psychological impact on the reader. The shift from ordinary to extraordinary in his descriptions of the pilgrimage mirrors the transformation of the characters' internal worlds. The syntax of Coelho's writing creates a rhythm that aligns with the spiritual journey of the characters. Short, abrupt sentences during moments of tension or inner conflict evoke a sense of disruption and unsettlement, while longer, flowing sentences during moments of revelation convey a sense of calm and unity. This contrast in sentence structure engages the reader's subconscious, subtly enhancing the emotional and psychological resonance of the narrative. The use of symbolic language, such as references to angels, death, and rebirth, creates a psychological space where the reader is encouraged to engage with the text not only at an intellectual level but also on a deeper, emotional, and spiritual plane.

On the other hand, Coelho also transforms the magus into the master of the soul. Through surreal experiences, Coelho undergoes a spiritual metamorphosis that aligns with the surrealist notion of transcending ordinary perception (Coelho, 1988, 2007). Coelho understands the purpose of life and love; though he had spiritual knowledge, he was on a quest to self-discover his identity. He was in search of knowing and seeing his guardian angel. After the three pacts, Coelho understands the true meaning of love and inner peace of mind. Finally, he feels the presence of his guardian angel, and he feels complete.

F. Focus on the Subconscious

Coelho's linguistic choices create a psychological space that allows readers to engage with the narrative on a deeper emotional level. For example, when Coelho writes, 'The desert stretches, limitless, before me', the semantic field of infinity evokes a feeling of existential uncertainty, mirroring the characters' internal conflict. This metaphoric language forces readers to engage with their subconscious and confront the feelings of isolation and possibility that the characters experience.

The syntax of Coelho's writing amplifies these emotions. During moments of internal conflict, the use of short, fragmented sentences evokes a sense of disjointedness, while longer, flowing sentences during spiritual epiphanies reflect the characters' internal resolution. Freud's concept of the unconscious suggests that language reveals repressed desires. Coelho's metaphors—such as the desert symbolizing inner emptiness—encourage readers to engage in self-reflection and personal transformation.

Humans believe in the concept of conscience, as mentioned in the novel. It is the second mind that alerts humans, and that inner voice guides individuals to make life choices. According to Freud, the personality concepts of ID, ego, and superego govern the minds of individuals. The ego acts as a mediator between the conscious and subconscious mind. In the selected novel, Gene, the young boy, and Paulo Coelho are in a conversation, and they discuss the second mind, which kindles Chris's curiosity. Gene performs a psychological experiment on Chris to help Chris understand the concept. He asks Chris to close her eyes and concentrate on the thoughts that have occupied her mind. He instructs her to unclutter her mind and find the purpose of the thoughts clouding her mind. During this process, Chris learns to control her thoughts and understands the power of the second mind.

Even in the case of Coelho, Valhalla instructs Coelho to understand his subconscious feelings. Once he is at peace with his subconscious thoughts, he can feel the presence of his guardian angel. It takes time for Coelho to understand the power of thoughts and the mind. After finding peace with himself and the world, Coelho's soul is filled with the guardian angel's aura in the climax. These two incidents align with the elements of focus on the subconscious, which forms the core habit for the artist to let their imaginative world open to the audience or the readers.

G. Contradictory Perspectives

Chris, a foreigner to her husband's magical world, learns the magic and starts speaking with her guardian angel. Throughout the journey, Chris receives guidance from her guardian angel, with whom she engages in conversation. As a reader, though, it isn't easy to accept that humans believe in the intuition of the soul; speaking with the guardian angel is still surreal in the present world, where everything is scientifically analyzed. The writer has beautifully merged the imagination of a magical world with the real landscapes in the background of the novel. Surrealism transforms the real world into a dream world filled with images that surpass human imagination. Coelho's narrative style blends magical ideas and visions with the real world.

TABLE 1
THE TABLE BELOW SHOWS THE ELEMENTS OF SURREALISM IN THE NOVEL IN A NUTSHELL

ELEMENTS	CHARACTERS/INCIDENTS	OUTCOME
Dream-like Imagery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mojave desert ➤ The Past Life of Coelho ➤ Paulo Coelho's vision of the angel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Portraying a real place as a surreal image ➤ Merging the real world with the cosmos ➤ Instilling hope in humans
Unexpected Juxtapositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heat stroke ➤ Valkyries (mythology) ➤ Gene (young magus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spiritual salvation ➤ Transforming the mythological characters to suit the present era ➤ Being wise doesn't have anything to do with age
Automatism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mythological ideas ➤ Concept of a guardian angel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blending reality with myth to make the storyline interesting ➤ Bringing out the superstitious belief of interacting with and the vision of an angel in the present
Symbols and Metaphor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Guardian angel ➤ Death ➤ Three Pacts by Paulo Coelho 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hope of reviving life ➤ Being spiritual and attaining salvation ➤ Represents the individual struggles to overcome fear and survival
Transformation and Metamorphosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Paulo Coelho ➤ Chris ➤ Valkyries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ from Master to a wise man ➤ common woman to spiritual human being ➤ from fragile to strong and independent women survivors
Focus on the subconscious.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ second mind ➤ human emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Uncluttering the unwanted thoughts ➤ controlling the feelings and letting go of the things beyond control
Contradictory Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mojave Desert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pleasant environment for the spiritual journey

V. CONCLUSION

The analysis confirms that *The Valkyries* by Paulo Coelho is a rich example of surrealistic literature that transcends traditional narrative boundaries. Coelho's integration of surreal elements through dream-like settings, symbolic language, subconscious exploration, and thematic transformations reveals a deep engagement with the psychological and spiritual dimensions of human existence. By employing surrealism not merely as an aesthetic choice but as a narrative strategy, Coelho constructs a dual reality where myth and reality intersect. Linguistic techniques, including metaphorical language and shifts in narrative perspective, further enhance the surrealist experience, inviting readers into a psychological and emotional engagement beyond surface interpretation. Drawing on theories of language subjectivity, poetic function, and surrealist philosophy, this paper demonstrates that *The Valkyries* is not simply a pilgrimage story but a profound meditation on identity, love, and transformation. Ultimately, Coelho's work affirms that surrealism continues to serve as a powerful medium for articulating spiritual quests and internal psychological journeys in modern literature.

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