

**FREEDOM IN DOSTOEVSKY'S  
*BROTHERS KARAMAZOV:*  
AN EXISTENTIALISM APPROACH**



Written as Partial Fulfillment of Requirement  
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English Department

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## SUMMARY

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This research paper deals with Freedom as a basic premises of existence. The object of this study is Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*. This study deals with human's free will as reflected in Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*. This study aims at describing the structural elements of the novel and exposing the ideas of free will in the novel based on Kierkegaard's existentialism. The benefit of this study is to give some contribution to the English Literary studies particularly the application of existentialism.

Type of qualitative of research, the method of data collection is library research and the technique of data analysis is descriptive. Kierkegaard's philosophy of existentialism is used as an apprehension to analyze the novel.

The outcomes of the study are as follow: first, literature serves as an instrument for the author to convey his philosophical view. Second, according to Dostoevsky freedom can be implemented in two different ways; freedom that kills life and freedom that gives life. Third, freedom must be implemented with limitation otherwise unlimited freedom will create crime.

## SYNOPSIS

Fyodor Pavlovich Karamazov is a wealthy landowner who has three legitimate sons; namely, Dmitri from the first wife, Sofya Ivanovna, Ivan and Alyosha from the second wife, Adelaida Ivanovna while Smerdyakov, the illegitimate son, from the stinking Lizaveta. All his children are reared by the different people all around Russia. Ivan and Alyosha are left into the initial care of Grigory, Fyodor's servant and then after a time along with his younger brother Alyosha from the servant's care by the lady who brought up his mother, Dmitri is passed of into his mother's cousin while Smerdyakov is kept as a servant and lives with Grigory in the lodge.

The three brothers are never seeing their father before and they come home for different reasons. Dmitri wants to settle down the matter over money and inheritance, but then their conflict is getting worse when both of them are falling in love with the same woman, named Grushenka. Ivan does not have a special reason for his coming back while Alyosha wants to visit her mother's grave and strengthen his will to enter the monastery and wants to become a monk. All the brothers except Alyosha, who is a novice in the monastery, hate old Karamazov. Dmitri is in love with the same woman as his father, Ivan hates his father because he so resembles him, Smerdyakov loathes his father for corrupting his mother and for keeping him as a serf. All three want the old man's money and when he is mysteriously murdered, all are guilty although it is Smerdyakov who actually committed the crime.

The death of the old father has made the brothers choose their own way in dealing with it. Dmitri and Grushenka bear a burden of exile as a means of salvation, Ivan feels that he is providing the moral justification for the murder, his belief has immersed Smerdyakov to make plans for the murder although at the end Smerdyakov chooses to suicide; hang himself, while Alyosha chooses to work in the path of God as what Father Zossima is teaching.