

SARTRE'S EXISTENTIALISM IN HERMANN HESSE'S *DEMIAN: THE STORY OF EMIL SINCLAIR'S YOUTH* NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

This study discussed about the phenomena in the society which human shown their existence and adapted on literary work. This study used Hermann Hesse's work entitled *Demian: The Story of Emil Sinclair's Youth* Novel. This study used Sartre's existentialism study on the ideas of finding the characteristic of Sartre's existentialism in Hesse's works. This study also used Gill and Kenan's explanation to get through understanding of the main character acts, narrations, dialogs on the research itself. This study aims to examine the characteristic of Sartre's existentialism in the novel and how the representation of existentialism in the main character. The researcher used qualitative-phenomenology theory to describe human experiences in a certain phenomenon. The results of this research that, there are three conception of Sartre's existentialism found in main character, *Emil Sinclair* which is Abandoned by God, Despair and Anguish. Also the researcher concluded that the main character became atheist in the end of the story which he did not choose the two world represent of religion path and the rebellion path. He wants to lives among the society peacefully full of conscious and consideration.

Keywords: Existentialism, Sartre's existentialism, abandoned, anguish, despair

ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini mendiskusikan tentang fenomena-fenomena yang ada di masyarakat dimana manusia ingin menunjukkan eksistensinya dan diadaptasi ke karya sastra. Penelitian ini menggunakan karya Hermann Hesse berjudul *Demian: The Story of Emil Sinclair's Youth*. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori eksistensialisme milik Sartre dalam menemukan karakteristik eksistensialisme di karya milik Hesse. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan penjelasan dari Gill dan Kenan untuk memahami maksud dari tingkah laku, narasi dan dialog tokoh utama itu sendiri. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis eksistensialisme Sartre dan bagaimana hal tersebut dipresentasikan di tokoh utama dari novel *Demian: The Story of Emil Sinclair's Youth*. Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif-fenomenologi untuk*

mendeskripsikan pengalaman manusia dalam sebuah fenomena tertentu. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada tiga konsepsi dari Sartre yang tergambar di tokoh utama, Emil Sinclair yaitu, ditelantarkan oleh Tuhan, penderitaan, dan keputus-asaan. Peneliti juga menyimpulkan bahwa sang tokoh utama di akhir cerita memilih untuk menjadi ateis (tidak mengikuti doktrin agama manapun) dan tidak memilih antara dua dunia yang merepresentasikan jalan di bawah naungan agama, atau jalan kemaksiatan. Ia ingin hidup diantara masyarakat secara damai yang penuh dengan kesadaran dan pertimbangan.

Kata kunci: *eksistensialisme, eksistensialisme Sartre, ditelantarkan, penderitaan, keputus-asaan.*

A. INTRODUCTION

In our society, people want to show their existence by joining groups or communities. people have desires of existing their existence in the society in order to differentiate with other to become the subject or the center of attention. Due this facts, literature exists as a medium for the author to conveying his idea in express his point of view towards life. Literature can captured the phenomena in society. The same cases which appeared in Hermann Hesse's work entitled *Demian*. This novel remind us for the real situation in real life which there are people who need guidance to show the way through experiences in order to find the essences of his life.

Considering this case, the researcher took Sartre's existentialism to connect with the idea from Jean Paul Sartre "existence precedes essences" which mean, we come to this world with a purpose. Man encounter himself, surges up in the world and defines himself afterwards. Hesse implicitly put the existentialist framework to hos work in order to highlight the main point of need for independence and spiritual self-reliance.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Sartre's Existentialism

To get known Existentialism clearly, the researcher search all the way back to the beginning of it formed. In general, existentialism emphasize their human existence without links it with God. Existentialism start with the idea that 'existence precedes essence' which mean we come into this world without a purpose. And we simply exist. Existentialist prefer to understand the concrete man and his problem, without isolating him/her from their social in political and cultural contexts. In other words, Existentialism tries to derive the meaning of the individual man from living or live experiences of concrete individuals and their surroundings. the researcher realized that existentialism divided into two kinds based on their believes, there are

theistic and **atheistic**. The theistic existentialists like Soren Keirkegaard, Martin Buber, Paul Tillich, Gabriel Marcel and Karl Jaspers, both professed as Catholics, do not deny the existence of God and Consider man's relationship with God as an important philosophical problem. On the other hand the atheistic existentialist like Jean Paul Sartre, Simon de Beauvoir and Martin Heidegger either implicitly deny God's existence or do not consider it as posing any serious philosophical problem. But all that thinkers agreed that *existence* comes before *essence* which mean we must begin from subjectives.

Sartre explains that, "existence precedes essence" means man first of all exists, encounter himself, surges up in the world and defines himself afterwards (Sartre 6). The researcher found that the center of existentialism is the absolute character of free commitment by which every man realize himself for all men. Sartre used emotion terms to center his concept. There are the concept of abandonment, anguish, and despair.

a) Abandonment

Sartre means by 'abandonment' is abandonment by God in implicit meaning. by using the word 'abandonment' Sartre wants to emphasizes the sense of loss caused by the realization that there is no God to guarantee our choices, no entity to give us guidelines as to how to achieve salvation. The choice of word stresses the solitary position of human beings alone in the universe with no external source of objective values (10-11). Sartre wants to highlight that, if God not exist, man must be free without higher entity rules them.

b) Anguish

Sartre using this emotion expression is extremely simple. Sartre simply means that, man is in anguish or having biggest fear of failing. There are many man show anxiety but Sartre beliefs, man disguising their anguish from it. Man can learn from his mistakes so anyone who follows will know how to react and will not happen again with same mistakes. To sum up, the researcher conclude that if you want to be a subject, you have to be certain on your option without doubt. But, superior man can handle his anxiety through learning from last mistakes not driven by depression, man commit to rise up and restart new life again.

c) Despair

Sartre means by Despair is when man found himself confronted by two different modes of action or options, the one concrete, but directed towards only one individual. And the other action directed towards infinitely greater, a national collectivity, or all. That is the reason for being ambiguous and it might be frustrated on that way. In the same time he was hesitating between two kinds of morality, first, morality of sympathy, of personal devotion and, on the

other side, a morality of wider scope but more debatable validity. What could help him to choose between those two.

2. Character and Characterization

According to Gill (127), “A character is someone in a literary work who has some sort of identity (it no need to be a strong one), an identity which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, name and (possibly) thoughts going on in the head.” which mean character is a person or subject. A character is one of important points in literature. There are variety types of characters in literature. Abrams said that, the chief of the plot which comes up and become the center of interest is called protagonist. The character that becomes an opponent of protagonist which its presence exists to against the protagonist is called the antagonist. Meanwhile, Characterization describes about character’s personality. Characterization will explain in detail how character’s traits. It tells attitudes, behavior, and dialogue within story. Based on Holman in a *Handbook to Literature* method of *characterization* in fiction. First, the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct exposition, either in an introductory block or more often piece-meal throughout the work, illustrated by action. Second, the presentation of character in action, with little or no explicit comment by the author, in the expectation that the reader will be able to deduce the attributes of the actor from the actions. Third, the representation from within a character, without comment on the character by the author, of the impact of actions and emotions upon his inner self, with the expectation that the reader will come to a clear understanding of attributes of the character

There are two common ways that the author can use to develop the characters in a story. According to Kenan in *Narrative Fiction* the author can give direct and indirect presentation to the characters. **Direct presentation** refers to the author directly says or thinks about a character. In other words, the reader directly was told what the character like. This first type actually names the characters the traits by an adjectives, an abstract noun, or possibly some other kind of noun or part of speech. In the other hand, **indirect presentation** does not mention the trait but displays and exemplifies it in various ways, leaving to the reader the task of inferring the implied meaning. According to kenan in *Narrative Fiction*, some of these ways will be action, speech, external experiences, environment. **Action** means A trait may be implied both by one time (or non-routine) actions and habitual actions. Both one time and habitual actions can belong to the following categories such as act of commission (something performed by the character), act of omission (something which the character should but does not do) and contemplated act (an unrealized plan or intention of the character) (61). **Speech** means a character’s speech whether in conversation or as a silent activity of the mind, can be indicative of a traits through its content and through its form (65). **External appearance** was presented when a non-visual quality is attributed to one part of character’s physique rather than to the character as a whole (67). **Environment** means a character’s physical surrounding (room, house, street,

town, etc) as well as his human environment (family, social class) are also often used trait-connoting metonymies (68).

3. Previous Studies

The researcher used three previous studies first from Winda Pradya Paramita the title is *The Significance of Dreams in Revealing Emil Sinclair's Individuation in Hermann Hesse "Demian: The Story of Emil Sinclair's Youth"*. This thesis is aimed at solving three problems. The first is the character development of Emil Sinclair. The second problem is the revelation of Sinclair's individuation; how Sinclair reveals each archetypes within him to reveal his Self and reach individuation. The final problem is the significance of dreams in revealing Sinclair's individuation. The method applied in this thesis is the library research. The main source are *Hermann Hesse's Demian: The Story of Emil Sinclair's Youth* and other sources that closely related to the topic discussed in this thesis. The approach applied in the thesis is philosophical approach.

Second, thesis made by Hafizah Sarah English Literature student in Cultural Sciences Faculty, Mulawarman University entitled *Existential life in Katniss's Character in "Hunger Games"*. The researcher choose *Hunger Games* as the object of this research because the researcher found that *Hunger Games* presented the reader about human existence who lived in tyranny era and has not any ability to fight against the government system until she decided to rebel and ended up being a hero. The research is categorized as a descriptive qualitative design. The data taken from *Hunger games* novel by Suzanne Collins. Further, this research used theory of Existentialism to show and define the life existence of Katniss. The research shown three most existential values by Jean Paul Sartre used in portraying the life existence of Katniss, they are facticity, choice, and responsibility. The research show that with Sartre life existence theory, the main character indeed get their freedom from the story.

Third, a thesis from Rahmawati Rizqi Septyarini from Muhammadiyah Surakarta University entitled *Personality Development of Emil Sinclair reflected in Hermann Hesse's "Demian" (1919): A Psychoanalytic Theory*. This thesis focus on personality development by Emil Sinclair in Hermann Hesse's *Demian* novel (1919) using Psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud. This study is qualitative research. In this research, there are two types of data, Primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is *Demian* novel and the secondary data source is the other material related to the study. The object of this study is *Demian* novel by Hermann Hesse. The technique of data analysis is the researcher analyzed by descriptive analysis. The result of this research shows that Hermann Hesse successfully deliver message that personality development is important to everyone because it is needed for everyone to make better life. Based on psychoanalytic approach shows that personality development is influenced by surrounding and friend.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used qualitative research as its research design. According to Miles and Huberman (1994), “qualitative data is usually in the forms of words rather than numbers” (1). The researcher used qualitative research because the data are the utterances and acts described in words within the novel *Demian*. This study was conducted in a phenomenology study. Phenomenology is a qualitative research method that used to describe how human beings experience in a certain phenomenon. The instrument of this study was the researcher herself. The data of this study were words from narrations, sentences, and dialogues of *Demian* novel related to the research questions: the characteristic of Sartre’s existentialism portray in the main character, Emil Sinclair and his characteristic existentialism conception towards his acts, narrations, dialogues.

There were several steps the researcher did in collecting the data of this study: read *Demian* novel carefully in order to get fully understanding. Took notes of the narrations, dialogues, and sentences related to Sartre’s existentialism portrayed in the main character, Emil Sinclair and used the data to collected to answer the research question in this study. The data analysis in this study worked accordingly to each questions. Creswell came up with how to analyze the data using data analysis spiral that is applicable the most in qualitative method (113). There are several steps for analyzing the data. These steps are: first, data organisation which mean the researcher collect the data and organize it based on the key themes.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Characteristic of Sartre Existentialism in the main Character

This analysis focused on Emil Sinclair’s character as the main character in the novel. Technically, the researcher sorted the data and analyzed which data had shown the criteria of existentialism by Sartre. Specifically, the analysis focuses on how Sartre’s existentialism reflects in Emil Sinclair’s character in the novel. The following data below as the characteristic of Sartre’s existentialism which emphasizes the men existence as a concrete subject was shown in this narrations:

I had acted like the man and the hero, now I had to bear the consequences. (25)

This narration was narrated when the main character accidentally caught lying to Franz Kromer. He did not have any option than just through it. This acts shown that if he wants to be the subject or want to shown up the world he must get through and handle it. He had to be certain about his option without doubt. Even in the wrong way and being different than other in the society. The main character which struggle to behave in society in that time and forced to had perfect manner. Considered his acts through his parents and his friend in order to get accept in society. The data above shown that the main character had the characteristic of Sartre’s existentialism which the main character bravely face his problem even it was leaded him into a trouble because the

actions he choose and responsible for what he doing. The main character's narrations of 'look like a man and a hero' which mean in his ten years old's body he had thought of a man which consider and responsible of what he doing even bare it with the consequences.

The other data below was indicated as the characteristic of Sartre's existentialism which men emphasizes his human existence as a subject which can be seen in this narrations:

I did not regret everything that happened, at least not all the time, and occasionally I even felt that everything had had to happen as it did. I was in the hands of fate and it was useless to try to escape. (42)

The key of existentialism itself is the subject did not regret every path he choose. But in the novel, Sinclair took the wrong path which is lying about his heroic action about stealing apples in the garden. And for Sinclair, it was his fate to take the wrong path and choose to being Kromer's slave. in case, he was responsible of what he did and did not blamed anyone.

a. Abandonment

The first data which indicated emotion terms of abandonment by God can be seen in this following narrations below:

Meantime cracks had begun to appear in my religious faith. Yet my thinking, which was certainly much influenced by Demian, was very different from that of some of my fellow students who boasted complete unbelief. (67)

The data above was taken from conversation between little Sinclair and Demian in that time discussed about Cain and Abel's story. Demian perspectives gave big impact on Sinclair for questioning his religion. Meanwhile, in his inner self also had the same feeling about what happening in his life. Which the world divided into two world, the light world and the dark world. This two world never be separated between good things and bad things produced cause and effect chain. This stage makes people learn new things called experiences. The data above was a metaphor that Sinclair wanted to emphasize the sense of loss caused by the realization that there is no God to helping him faced Kromer, the bullied. This effect made him became unbeliever of God's existence. Instead, he needed guidelines from anyone. This events makes Sinclair more believing in himself rather than anyone. He cannot depend on anyone within himself.

b. Anguish

The terms Anguish from Sartre which meant having biggest fear of failing. This following data which indicated emotion terms from Sartre which is anguish can be seen in this narration below:

As they did with me, whose contact with evil often grew so oppressive and painful, and to whom the dark world seemed so much closer. (16)

Little Sinclair lived with his parents and sisters full of goodness and under strong faith of religion. But in inside, Sinclair had many question which religion can not answer it especially about human behaviour as the way it is. Curiosity grown up in ten years old boy's body and felt rebellion inside himself. He began to be friend with naughty boys from general school and played with them. He known Franz Kromer as bad boy because he acted like young workers in factory and do bad things to others. Sinclair's know Kromer is a bad friend, but for desires wants to get recognized with people, he hanged out with Kromer even only once in that time and then he fell into kromer's tricks. The pain of being oppressed and being pressed by stronger power makes Sinclair felt anguish and suppressed also no one to talk to and no one to shared with makes Sinclair had terrible illness mentally.

c. Despair

The following data that indicated emotion terms from Sartre as despair can be seen in this following narration below:

I was haunted by misfortune, it was reaching out toward me so that not even my mother could protect me, since she was not even allowed to know. Whether my crime was stealing or lying--(hadn't I sworn a false oath by God and everything that was sacred?)--was immaterial. My sin was not specifically this or that but consisted of having shaken hands with the devil. Why had I gone along? Why had I obeyed Kromer-- better even that I had ever obeyed my father? **Why had I invented the story, building myself up with a crime as though it were a heroic act? The devil held me in his clutches, the enemy was behind me.** (24)

The feeling of despair appeared when Sinclair did not have any options rather to followed Kromer or telling the truth to his parents about what happen and can saved him from oppression. But, for taking the wrong way which lying or must be responsible of what he did makes him must ended it by himself to solving his problem (which he can not do that). This incident makes Sinclair more careful of what his options and learn from his mistakes.

2. The Characterization of Sartre's Existentialism Portrayed in Main Character

The researcher analyzed how those characteristic of Sartre's existentialism portrayed in the main character using characterization theory. According to Kenan in *Narrative Fiction* the author can give direct and indirect presentation to the characters. Especially, using these way to amplifies the traits within the main character. There are from the main character's actions, speeches, external appearances, and environments.

The first data which shown in this narrations:

I had acted like the man and the hero, now I had to bear the consequences. (25)

The data above was presented in indirect presentation in the form of action which the researcher indirectly know the character's trait. The main character implicitly tells about his struggles in order to solving his problem with Franz Kromer. Indirect presentation was shown in the form of act commission within himself that he acted like a man and the hero in ten years old's body which shown his responsibility of dealing with his problem and act bravery in order to accepted the realization that he made a mistakes of chosen the wrong path.

a. The Characterization of Abandonment by God

The data which indicated emotion terms of abandonment by God can be seen in the following narrations:

Meantime cracks had begun to appear in my religious faith. Yet my thinking, which was certainly much influenced by Demian, was very different from that of some of my fellow students who boasted complete unbelief. (67)

The data above was in **indirect presentation** which the main character's trait did not displayed easily by the author. Indirect presentation was **in the form of speeches within himself**. The main character was characterized as a person with doubt in his own faith instead of saying he losing his own faith in his religion caused of the realization that there is no God's existence when he needed guidance. The main character's trait was displayed in the form of speeches in silent activity in his mind while questioning the existence of his life which he indirectly said that he loosing hope indirectly and said that he became unbelief person mentioning his fellow student but actually the word refers to himself.

b. The Characterization of Anguish

The following data which indicated emotion terms from Sartre which is anguish can be seen in this narrations:

As they did with me, whose contact with evil often grew so oppressive and painful, and to whom the dark world seemed so much closer. (16)

The data above was in **indirect presentation** which the author did not mentioned the main character's trait easily but it displayed in various way such as in the form of speeches within the main character. The main character was characterized as a person that had oppression which instead of said he was anguish and scared, he said that indirectly through narrations which being oppressed by an evil. The man character was characterized as the one who had sins which indirectly he said 'the dark world seemed so much closer'.

c. The Characterization of Despair

The following data that indicated emotion terms from Sartre as despair can be seen in this narrations:

I was haunted by misfortune, it was reaching out toward me so that not even my mother could protect me, since she was not even allowed to know. Whether my crime was stealing or lying--(hadn't I sworn a false oath by God and everything that was sacred?)--was immaterial. My sin was not specifically this or that but consisted of having shaken hands with the devil. Why had I gone along? Why had I obeyed Kromer-- better even that I had ever obeyed my father? Why had I invented the story, building myself up with a crime as though it were a heroic act? The devil held me in his clutches, the enemy was behind me. (24)

The data above was in **indirect presentation** which in the form speeches within the main character's mind. The main character was characterized with haunted by misfortune which mean he took the wrong path and indirectly saying that he was desperate with his condition now which no one helped him even his own family. The main character was characterized with speeches contain metaphor in the narration that shown he in the level of high depression and confronted with two things.

3. Discussions

Based on analysis characteristic of Sartre's existentialism found in main character and Sartre's existentialism conceptions portrayed in main character mention in the findings, it can be know that there are three conception emotion terms of Sartre's existentialism in *Demian*. The first emotion terms is abandoned implicitly abandoned by God which shown mostly in prologue and in first chapter part *two realms* and last chapter part *end begins*. In prologue, Hermann Hesse used third person perspectives and told about biggest essential terms for being a writer which writers acts like God to his/her main characters in his/her works. Hesse wants to emphasize that, what happen in literary work is representative from the real events happen in society . There was some kind of person like Emil Sinclair

which did not know his purpose of life. Then, he needs to encounter himself through problems and experiences to create his own ideal identity for himself and for society to conquer the world. Even if he needs to feel the upside down of rejection, loneliness or abandoned his own religion to get happiness through living his own life. Because he believes that, the one who conquers the world is himself.

Second emotion terms of Sartre's existentialism that portrayed in main character is anguish. It can be seen in the findings, in that time when Sinclair only ten years old he first encounters himself through finding the purpose of his life through first experiences with Franz Kromer. Sinclair felt his biggest fear haunted him everyday since he lied to bragging. This experience with Kromer makes Sinclair learn to face a problem even though with Demian's help. At least, Sinclair learns the new things that might happen in the real world too.

Third emotion terms of Sartre's existentialism that shown in main character is despair. Despair feeling haunted Sinclair when he faces his first problem without his own family which his nearest relationship bounding because he secretly felt despair on how to face his own problem. He felt guilty for not obeyed the religion norm which his family believe in order to live their life. Sinclair felt despair of no one helped him when he needs someone and it changed him personally different. Despair feeling also appeared in Sinclair's teenage age when he attended to boarding house far away from home. The despair feeling appeared to make Sinclair become a better person and more self-independent for his own sake.

The three emotion terms can be seen in main character's personality that built him slowly through experiences of his journey. That is what the researcher can conclude that from analysis above it is proven that the main character of *Demian: the Journey of Emil Sinclair's Youth* novel actually adherent of Sartre's existentialism which a theory for the searching of self-identity and self awareness in order to exist first and then men create his own experiences and conquer the world to find his own essences in living. It is proven that Sinclair is an existentialist and decided in the end of the novel to become an atheist which he does not choose both two worlds, the light world under religion norm or the dark world full of freedom but also can destroy his own body for fulfill his own desires. Sinclair chose the world which he created by himself which consist of goodness for his own safety and happiness and evil for his curiosity and big eagerness. He tried to live his own life positively with fully logic thoughts because life only once. It makes him find his true identity and self-esteem which shown him his inner essences of being a human.

E. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Conclusions

This study can conclude that, characteristic of Sartre's existentialism appeared in the main character, Emil Sinclair at narrations, acts and dialogue in the novel. In the novel, there was found three terms emotion which is, abandoned by God,

anguish and despair also the researcher found that main character indicated as atheistic existentialism after get through the searching of self-identity. The researcher could conclude that in the end of the story the main character, Emil Sinclair, did not choose the two world (the light world with pureness and shadow of religion and the dark world with rebellion actions and biggest desires to fulfil) because he wanted to live his own life perfectly exist and recognizable. He know that lived only once and he needs to spend it slowly. The story of Emil Sinclair might be happen in real life which people forgot his/her true identity and being unrecognizable.

2. Suggestions

There are two suggestions that can be suggested for the next researchers. First, the researcher expect that *Demian* novel can be our learning to recognize literary criticism toward literary work. In *Demian* novel there are existentialism aspect which appeared in main character that can be happen in real life. Second, this suggestion is for English Literature students who want to do more research, Sartre existentialism can be used as approach to any literary works. The facts that existentialism can be analyzed in various way also represent the real society which nowadays people lack of true self identity. By having various research which focuses on existentialism issues, it will be a guide and help other researcher to understand deeply about existentialism.

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