

**ABSURDITY OF KATHERINE'S REBELLION IN THE FILM *LADY MACBETH*
(2016): ABSURDISM THEORY**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting a Bachelor Degree of
English Education Department School Teacher Training and Education**

By:

BAGUS SAPUTRO NURCAHYO

A320170261

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

2021

APPROVAL

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PUBLICATION ARTICLE

by:

BAGUS SAPUTRO NURCAHYO

A320170261

Approved to be examined by consultant
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

Consultant,



Dra. Sumayah, M. A
NIDN. 0628086302

ACCEPTANCE

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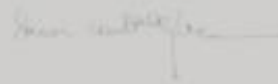
Accepted by Board Examiner of English Education
School of Teacher and Training Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
On, 12 August 2021

The board Examiers:

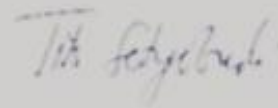
1. Dra. Sumayah, M. A
(Head of Exaimer)

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2. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M. Ed
(Member I of Examiner)


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3. Titis Setyabudi, S. S., M. A
(Member II of Examiner)

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Pr. Dr. Sutarna, M.Pd.
NIKUNIDN. 0007016002

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The Researcher



BAGUS SAPUTRO N

A320170261

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk 1) mengidentifikasi bentuk pemberontakan Katherine. 2) untuk menganalisis alasan pemberontakan yang dilakukan Katherine. Dan yang terakhir 3) untuk menganalisis alasan Katherine memutarbalikkan fakta pembunuhan dalam film *Lady Macbeth (2016)*. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Absurditas dari Albert Camus. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam penelitian kualitatif dengan berfokus pada analisis bentuk dan alasan pemberontakan pada tokoh utama. Teknik data analisis pada penelitian ini adalah analisis deskripsi. Dari penelitian ini, ditemukan tiga temuan berdasarkan rumusan masalah. Pertama, bentuk pemberontakan Katherine. Penulis menemukan dua bentuk pemberontakan yaitu pemberontakan Metafisik dan pemberontakan historis. Kedua, alasan yang mendorong pemberontakan Katherine. Terdapat dua alasan yaitu alasan pemberontakan metafisik dan historikal. Dan yang ketiga, alasan Katherine memutarbalikkan fakta pembunuhan dikarenakan dua alasan yaitu cemburu dan menjaga kehormatan.

Kata kunci: Absurditas, Pemberontakan, Perzinaan

Abstract

This study aims to 1) identify the form of Katherine's rebellion. 2) to analyze the reasons of Katherine's rebellion. And lastly 3) to analyze the reason of Katherine twisted the facts of the murder in the film *Lady Macbeth (2016)*. This study uses the theory of Absurdity from Albert Camus. This research is included in qualitative research by focusing on the analysis of the forms and reasons of rebellion in the main character. The data analysis technique in this research is descriptive analysis. From this study, three findings were found based on the research questions. First, the form of Katherine's rebellion. The author finds two forms of rebellion, namely Metaphysical rebellion and historical rebellion. Second, the reasons that prompted Katherine's rebellion. There are two reasons, namely the metaphysical and historical reasons of rebellion. And thirdly, the reason of Katherine distorted the facts of the murder was due to two reasons, namely jealousy and guarding honor.

Keywords: Absurdity, Rebellion, Adultery

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is an expression of something that comes from writing. According to Mario Klarer (2013) literature is a written expression as a whole, but not all written documents are included in literary works, such as newspapers, telephone books, and important documents. Literature can be in the form of someone's creativity which is then developed into useful and useful literary works. According to Nuranisah (2014) Literary work is a result of human imagination which is then formed from creativity towards thoughts, ideas, and feelings that come from the inspiration of human life. Meanwhile, according to Rohman (2012; 18) defines literary works as works of art in the form of written expressions that are beautiful and useful. From these two

definitions, we can conclude that a literary work is a written thought that is written in a creative and beautiful way so that it can be useful. One of them is a novel.

Novel is the result of someone's work on what he writes on paper containing ideas, ideas, or even stories that have meaning and are useful for the reader. However, nowadays there are many novels that reflect people's lives in the real world, so that they can be a lesson for the messages contained in the novels. In this case, the novel can be one of the inspirations for the film director to visualize so that it becomes a film. This is referred to as "enkrantation" as stated by Eneste (1991) in a book entitled *Novel and Film* that Enkrantasi is a process of lifting a novel literary work into a film so that several changes occur, both tools, words into moving images, all of which become visual form. The film that the writer chose in this research is a film called *Lady Macbeth* which was produced in 2016 which is a film adapted from the novel entitled *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk in 1865* by Nikolai Semyonovich who is a Russian writer.

Lady Macbeth is a 2016 film directed by William Oldyord and written by Alice Birch. The film debuted at the FIPRESCI European Invention Award at the 30th European Film Award in Berlin in 2017 and was awarded in the International Film Festival in Toronto in 2016. The film is set in 1865 Victorian setting in rural northeast England. Broadly speaking, this film tells of a girl named Katherine who married Alexander without any love between the two. So many things that make Katherine feel not like a wife in general, such as the absence of sexual relations between the two, her life is filled with suffering, so the resistance that she does is called rebellion.

In the film story of *Lady Macbeth*, the author focuses on the main character Katherine's rebellion in an effort to liberate. In life, if you feel uncomfortable with what you are going through, there will definitely be a rebellion. According to the author, rebellion is an act to fight things that are not in accordance with his wishes so as to seek freedom according to what he wants. According to Camus (2000: 41) that rebellion is a claim motivated by the concept of complete unity, opposing the sufferings of life, death, and protesting the condition of humanity because of its incompleteness and futility.

The living conditions that suffer from ridicule and arbitrary actions give rise to rebellion in humans. Rebellion like that is what gives life value and restores human existence. This rebellion has two forms of rebellion, namely metaphysical rebellion and historical rebellion (Camus, 2015: 15-115). Metaphysical rebellion is a rebellion carried out by humans against their conditions of life and all things. In contrast to historical revolts are rebellions that occur because of events in the past. The past events of humans who do not understand the real life.

According to Camus (1999: 14-18) the reason that encourages metaphysical rebellion is realizing the limitations of the ratio to be able to describe life. In addition, humans will rebel because they leave the saturation of life by questioning the future. As for the feeling of alienation felt by humans, and accepting death as an individual life. In contrast to the reasons that encourage metaphysical rebellion, the reasons that encourage historical rebellion are injustice and unfreedom. The rebellion occurred as a result of the low level of justice and freedom felt by humans (Foley, 2008: 170).

But what if the rebellion ended up being in vain because it was not in accordance with the original purpose. This is referred to as absurd, which is a thing where something that is done is all futile and unclear. As stated by Cahya (2017) that absurdity is a thought that considers life in the world to have no meaning, does not make sense, and is only in vain. Etymologically absurd comes from the Latin, namely *ab* which means "no" and *surdus* which means "heard". so, literally absurd means "unpleasant to hear" or "something illogical" (Kusumo, 2011: 14). Albert Camus explained that human life in this world is a waste. he argues that the relationship between man and the world is unclear. This ambiguity is caused by human desires that are not in line with life. The world cannot provide something certain when humans want certainty, that's when the absurdity occurs (Ismoyo, 2011).

Absurdity is a theory created by a European philosopher and writer, Albert Camus. The absurd according to Camus didn't just appear. However, absurdity comes from boredom. Boredom will awaken human consciousness and provoke people to follow it (Camus, 1999:15). Camus boredom is an awareness of the struggles of human self in everyday life. The criteria for an absurd figure seen from Camus's view is a figure who dares to fight to defend his position, and dares to bear the consequences of his opposition (Yulilistio, 2015: 41). These criteria would make absurd characters unreasonable to ordinary people. In addition, it is difficult to predict the actions of the characters, as well as the views and thoughts of absurd figures that are different from the others.

The reasons why the writer analyzes this film are, firstly, research on this film is still relatively rarely studied by several researchers, thus avoiding plagiarism. Second, the film *Lady Macbeth* itself has a strange story where the behavior of a famous character's wife should not act like that, and the writer wants to know more about the strangeness in the main character. Finally, research on absurdity is still very rare, therefore the author wants his research to be a reference for future researchers who want to research about this.

Based on some of the author's reasons above, the researchers agreed to examine the main character in the film *Lady Macbeth* by using the theory of absurdity from Albert Camus and

raising the issue of Katherine's rebellion which in the end became absurd, therefore this study entitled "Absurdity of Katherine's Rebellion In The Film Lady Macbeth (2016): Absurdism Theory"

2. METHOD

There are several methods in this research, 1) specify the type of the research. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research is an approach that makes it possible to detail life experiences in a series, such as interviews, group discussions, analyzes, etc. (Hennink et al., 2020). Qualitative research is research that in the process uses theory, definition, or symbols as a reference to make the research more qualified so that the data is descriptive. 2) specify the object of the research. The object that the writer analyzes is the film Lady Macbeth (2016) directed by William Oldyord and written by Alice Birch. 3) specify the type of data and data source. The data in this study are in the form of film scripts and pictures that show scenes according to the rebellion in the main character. There are two sources of data in this study, namely primary data and secondary data. In Primary data source this research is the movie of Lady Macbeth (2016) by William Oldyord and the secondary data source for this research is the previous study and the other document related to this study from library research, websites, journal articles, books, and internet that supports the research. 4) specify the techniques of collecting data. The author uses documentation techniques by watching and reading the script on the film Lady Macbeth, then classified based on the theory of absurdity by Albert Camus. And ends with a conclusion. 5) specify the techniques of analyzing data, which consists of selecting objects, focusing on the problem of study, namely rebellion, then being identified based on the theory of Absurdity by Albert Camus.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After the data was classified based on the form of rebellion, the reasons for the rebellion, and the reason Katherine distorted the facts of the murder using the theory of Absurdity from Albert Camus, the researchers found several findings on the answers to the research questions in this study in the film Lady Macbeth (2016).

3.1 The Forms of Katherine's Rebellion

Table 1. An analysis the form of Katherine's rebellion.

| No. | The Form of Rebellion | Detail |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Metaphysical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katherine having sex with one of the gardeners, Sebastian. - Katherine having sex in front of her husband. - Katherine killed Alexander (her husband), Boris (mother-in-law), and Teddy (Alexander's adopted Son). - Katherine twisted the facts of murder. |
| 2. | Historical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katherine allows Sebastian to enter the house (indifference). - Katherine went against her in-laws because Katherine want to keep Sebastian alive with her and be happy in the future. |

First, the writer finds the metaphysical rebellion of Katherine depicted in the film. A human being will carry out this rebellion because of protesting his living conditions. The way to protest the living conditions of the suffering is through the act of resisting. There are four forms of absurd metaphysical rebellion, namely cheating, having sex in front of the husband, killing, and distorting the facts. These four forms of rebellion Katherine did for several reasons such as curiosity, uncertainty, and alienation. It was this reason that caused Katherine to put up a fight. This is in line with the opinion of Yunus (2011: 272) that humans will make efforts to free themselves from inappropriate conditions. For Katherine, the situation she was in at that time did not match that of a married woman in general, which was later referred to as absurd. The reason is, there is no sexual relationship between the two, they do not love each other and their relationship is not harmonious. So Katherine commits an affair as an effort to fight it. This is in line with Fajri's opinion (2017) that the triggers of infidelity are many and varied, but disharmony in husband and wife relationships is the main factor. Until the murder was carried out by Katherine just to achieve her happiness with Sebastian. But this is absurd because it was the noble lady who shouldn't have done such a thing. Yulistio (2015: 41) says that someone who maintains his position can be called an absurd individual. The stance referred to here is Katherine's repeated assassination attempts to kill Boris, Alexander, and Teddy. Until in the end Katherine did not admit her mistake and instead distorted the facts.

Second, the writer finds historical rebellion of Katherine depicted in the film. The rebellion occurred as a result of the low level of justice and freedom felt by humans (Foley, 2008: 170).

There are two forms of absurd historical rebellion, namely, indifference and expression of disapproval. Katherine does this indifferent attitude by allowing Sebastian into the house. It is in the victorian era not allowed for gardeners into the house as evidenced by the scene in the film when Teddy's grandmother forbids Sebastian to enter their house. Katherine's indifference is an attempt to not be free in seeking happiness. Of course, Katherine's actions made her mother-in-law furious, so they argued with each other. As Camus in Aviva stated (2018) that rebellion occurs because of acts of spontaneity that cannot be controlled. Katherine's expression of disapproval showed for what she had felt all this time, she did not get happiness for her husband. So Katherine fought back with an expression of disapproval. Of course it also becomes absurd because the son-in-law against the in-laws is an unreasonable act. Other reasons for historical rebellion besides not being free are injustice, negative thinking, fear of threats, and indecision.

3.2 The Reasons of Katherine's Rebellion

Table 2. An analysis the reasons of Katherine's rebellion

| No. | The Form of Rebellion | Detail |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Metaphysical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curiosity (when Katherine wanted to know the name of the gardener who had previously hung Anna as a toy). - Uncertainty (Katherine was surprised when she saw Alexander who only played with his genitals from a distance. Indirectly, Katherine has a myriad of questions against Alexander. Either Alexander doesn't love Katherine or does have a reproductive disorder. This creates uncertainty that makes Katherine unsure of what the future will be like). - Alienation (Katherine feels lonely about her daily life, which only works at home and is only accompanied by Anna. Katherine's feelings of loneliness were a form of loneliness. Moreover, coupled with the fact that Katherine was not allowed to leave the house, it added to the monotonous atmosphere of Katherine's life). |
| 2. | Historical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indifference (Katherine is allowing Sebastian to enter the house secretly). - Expression of disapproval (because all of Katherine actions were dismantled by Sebastian) |

The reasons that encourage metaphysical rebellion are realizing the limitations of the ratio to be able to describe life, leaving the saturation of life by questioning the future, alienation, and accepting death as an individual life (Camus, 1999: 14-18). Katherine's curiosity to know the man's name was the reason behind the metaphysical rebellion. This is shown in the form of a question to Anna. Which in the end Katherine was able to get to know Sebastian better through her affair. Then, the restlessness was the reason for Katherine's metaphysical rebellion. Because the anxiety causes a feeling of not being free in his life. Therefore, the existence of human anxiety will fight. Next, Katherine has a myriad of questions against Alexander. Either Alexander doesn't love Katherine or does have a reproductive disorder. This creates uncertainty that makes Katherine unsure of what the future will be like. So this uncertainty became Katherine's reason for carrying out a metaphysical rebellion. Last, Katherine feels lonely about her daily life, which only works at home and is only accompanied by Anna. Katherine's feelings of loneliness were a form of loneliness. Moreover, coupled with the fact that Katherine was not allowed to leave the house, it added to the monotonous atmosphere of Katherine's life. This shows that Katherine has experienced alienation. The alienation is caused by Boris' rules of house rules for Katherine. So this alienation becomes the reason that encourages metaphysical rebellion.

The reasons for the historical rebellion are injustice and unfreedom. The rebellion occurred as a result of the lack of justice and freedom felt by humans. The injustice is felt for the first time from a (a) right to vision of human life, and (b) inequality in social status between rich and poor. Unfreedom can be seen from the lack of freedom in acting and thinking. Humans have the right to be free without any differences in them. It was seen that Anna and one of her assistants were out of the house. This made Katherine jealous of the rules given to Katherine to stay in the house. Therefore, this injustice became Katherine's reason for carrying out the Historical rebellion. Then, lack of freedom becomes the driving reason for carrying out historical rebellions. Because Sebastian is the one who can make Katherine feel happy so she can enjoy freedom. However, in reality Katherine had to be secretive for Sebastian to enter the house. Next, whatever Katherine did to live happily with Sebastian. One of them by getting rid of Teddy. The negative thoughts arose because at that time only Teddy was an obstacle to their happiness. Hence, the manifestation of the reasons that drove Katherine's historical rebellion against the negative. Another reasons, the fear of the threat was the reason Katherine carried out this historical rebellion. Katherine fell silent for a moment and was afraid that it might happen. Then there was Katherine's resistance by showing her sexual relationship with

Sebastian in front of Alexander as a form of irritation at Alexander's threat. The last, Katherine felt numb when Sebastian revealed everything. This left Katherine torn between confessing or sacrificing to the other party. It was this state of indecision that was the reason for Katherine's historical rebellion.

3.3 Analysis of Katherine's reasons for twisting the facts of the murder

Katherine is a beautiful teenage girl. Her beauty is reflected in her wedding scene with Alexander. But unfortunately, Katherine's marriage was bought on the basis of a plot of land by Boris Lester. So that Katherine and Alexander did not love each other. As a good wife, Katherine still obeyed Alexander's orders when she was in the room and was told to take off the clothes she was wearing. This is where the silliness begins. Where a husband and wife do not love each other, do not have sex, and the closeness between the two.

This made Katherine rebel. This trait is shown by some evidence of the rebellion he did in the previous discussion. One of the reasons he rebelled was to find joy in the absurdity he experienced. All obstacles that hindered her togetherness with Sebastian, removed by Katherine in various ways. One of them is by killing people around Katherine who are considered a barrier to happiness. Like Boris being poisoned by mushrooms and leaving him poisoned in the room. Alexander who was killed with a stick. And finally, Teddy was killed by smothering him with a pillow. None other than the goal is to just want to be free from all the obstacles that hinder their happiness.

However, all this struggle was in vain and became ridiculous. When Sebastian finally revealed that it was Katherine who killed the three people, Katherine dismissed Sebastian's statement and did not admit his guilt. This affects Sebastian and Anna who are eventually accused by Katherine of being the killers of Boris, Alexander, and Teddy. So Katherine distorted the facts at that very moment. Previously, the actual facts are like Anna was picking mushrooms under a big tree, fact shows that Anna actually also intervened in the cause of Boris' death, but Anna could only obey Katherine's orders as the wife of the Noble in that house. Then, Anna is also considered to have participated in the cause of Boris' death. Moreover, Anna, who is at home every day and knows the whole house, makes Katherine's power to distort the facts. The next fact from Sebastian, Sebastian was holding Teddy's leg when Katherine was smothering Teddy with a pillow. Sebastian holds Teddy's leg for helping Katherine in the process of killing Teddy.

The reasons of Katherine that twisted the facts are jealous, jealous of the closeness between Anna and Sebastian. Sebastian is seen hanging Anna with a cloth and calling her a pig. This is a form of Sebastian's interest in Anna, which is then made a toy to hang. This made Katherine jealous and distorted the facts. As a noble wife, Katherine naturally wanted to keep her honor. He wanted to prove that noble ladies didn't behave like that. It can also be seen in the dress that she is wearing is really very elegant. The dress that Katherine wore depicted the Victorian era at that time. Bad behavior certainly will not appear in the woman in the blue dress. This reason is only to fool investigators by distorting most of the facts.

Based on the explanation of Katherine's reasons for twisting the facts above, it can be concluded that Katherine is a reflection of absurdity. It is marked by some ridiculous things that happen in his life. What shouldn't have happened will happen. In the film, Katherine covers up her crimes by leading logical opinions so that she can make up a story that contradicts the facts. This is called hypocrisy. The hypocrisy of a noble is reflected in the character of Katherine who has an absurd personality. A noble woman out there who is considered a role model, soft-hearted, and has a polite personality does not appear in the character of Katherine in the film *Lady Macbeth* (2016). Everything Katherine did had no end. Which should have served Katherine's main purpose, but in the end it wasn't what Katherine wanted. It was also the result of the behavior of a noble woman who lacked a human fairy.

4. CLOSING

In this study, researchers collect data from the film *Lady Macbeth* (2016) and also the script, with the main character, Katherine. Then this data is processed and classified using Albert Camus' theory of absurdity. So that the findings are based on research questions, including the forms of Katherine's rebellion, the reasons of Katherine's rebellion, and the reasons why Katherine distorted the facts of the murder. First, the form of Katherine's rebellion. Based on the findings and analysis, the writer found that there were 2 forms of rebellion carried out by Katherine, namely (1) Metaphysical rebellion and (2) historical rebellion. Forms of metaphysical rebellion in the form of, (a) behavior against humans against living conditions that suffer. (b) behavior against humans against meaningless living conditions, and lastly, (c) against arbitrary power. The form of metaphysical rebellion of Katherine include: infidelity, sexual acts in front of her husband, murder, and distorting facts. While the form of historical rebellion are include: indifference and expressions of disapproval. These forms of rebellion are shown by Katherine through her actions and words in the film *Lady Macbeth*. Second, the reasons of Katherine's rebellion. This reason is divided into two based on the form of rebellion,

namely the reasons of metaphysical rebellion and the reason of the historical rebellion. The reasons that drove Katherine into metaphysical rebellion were: curiosity, uncertainty, and alienation. While the reasons that encourage the historical rebellion are: injustice, lack of freedom that causes worry, negative thinking, fear of threats, and indecision. Third, the reasons of Katherine distorted the facts of the murder. There are two reasons that made Katherine do the act of distorting the facts of the murder, namely feeling jealous and maintaining honor. Absurdity is a ridiculous thing humans do. This ridiculous thing is done by humans in order to find happiness in their lives. One of the ways to achieve happiness is through rebellion. both metaphysical and historical rebellion. But in the search for happiness is not always achieved its goal. The same goes for Katherine's search for happiness. Which in the end is not achieved according to the purpose and is called the absurd. So that the absurdity in this film is reflected in the main character, Katherine. Katherine covers up her crimes by directing logical opinions so that she can fabricate a story that contradicts the facts. This is called hypocrisy. The author criticizes the hypocrisy of a noble through the character of Katherine who has an absurd personality. Researchers conclude that hypocrisy is something that does not reflect the goodness in a person. This can be detrimental to yourself and others. This is reflected in Katherine that think about the sin she had committed. And in the end she was lonely as a result of all the bad actions he had done. So, the writer can conclude that the crimes that are covered up will give rise to new crimes. More often he covered up the crime, the more absurd his behavior became. Because basically crime is a very heinous act and is not commendable.

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