

# **ABSURDITY IN WINSTON GROOM'S *FOREST GUMP***

## **(ABSURDITAS DALAM NOVEL "FOREST GUMP" KARYA WINSTON GROOM)**

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### **Abstract**

This journal discusses about the absurdity portrayed in *Forest Gump*. In Forest's perception, life is only a repetition so that there will be no purpose and when people are trapped in the prosaic routine, their life will be meaningless. In this case, Groom makes Forest overcome this absurdity. It is the matter that the writer wants to explore in this research.

Camus's theory of absurdity is applied to map the concept of absurdity portrayed in the novel. This theory is also beneficial to see Forest's way to overcome absurdity. He makes an exploration by involving himself in many events in the world that finally shows the meaning of life. Then, he makes contemplation that gives him a deeper understanding to see that the life is absurd and transcends this absurdity. Therefore, this research concludes that Forrest is the hero, like Camus, in Groom's version.

**Keywords:** Camus' Absurdity, ForRest Gump

### **Abstrak**

Jurnal ini mencoba untuk membahas konsep absurditas dalam novel karya Winston Groom yang berjudul *Forrest Gump*. Dalam persepsi Forest hidup hanya merupakan sebuah pengulangan dan tidak memiliki tujuan pasti di dalamnya sehingga menyebabkan keterjebakan pada rutinitas hidup yang tanpa arah tujuan. Dalam hal ini, Groom membuat Forest sebagai tokoh yang mampu mengatasi absurditas. Ini mengapa novel karya Winston Groom yang berjudul *Forrest Gump* sangat menarik untuk dikaji dan diteliti lebih dalam.

Teori absurditas yang dikembangkan oleh Albert Camus diaplikasikan dalam jurnal ini untuk mengetahui gambaran-gambaran absurd yang disampaikan Groom dalam novelnya. Teori Albert Camus ini juga berguna untuk mengetahui sejauh mana, Forest mampu mengatasi gejala-gejala absurditas seperti keterjebakan manusia pada rutinitas yang pada akhirnya mengantarkannya pada hidup yang tanpa makna. Untuk mengatasi hidup yang absurd, Groom sejalan dengan Camus, ia menawarkan sebuah cara yang pertama berupa penjelajahan dunia, menerima segala rintangan dunia, dan selalu berkata "ya" pada hidup. Kemudian, cara terakhir adalah perenungan akan segala penjelajahan tersebut.

**Kata kunci :** Absurditas oleh Camus, *Forrest Gump*.

### **Introduction**

The research is written to get an understanding about the concept of absurdity is presented in *Forest Gump* and how the character of Forest Gump in fact is able to overcome the absurd life. For the readers, this research is beneficial to know about the paradigm of absurdity in literature as the portrait and reaction toward its world. Moreover, from this research, it can be comprehended that there is some ways as shown by Forest Gump to overcome or to transcend absurdity so that he is able to be authentic person. This research is also expected to be the reference for other researchers who concern with the same topic about absurdity in literary work, especially American absurdity.

In this research, an overview of the whole thesis is provided in order to give the readers a clear description

about the topic discussed in the research. The topic is about absurd life portrayed in *Forest Gump*. Therefore, the writer provides the background of the study, the problems to discuss and the goals of the study.

This research therefore chooses Winston Groom's *Forest Gump* because there is one unique character characterized by his aimless life. He also can be the type of absurd man and all at one transcends his absurdity. The novel portrays Forest Gump as the man who has peculiar characteristics suffering from mental disorder. He even has problems with uttering words spoken in daily basis. In addition, he undergoes complex problems and becomes an object of extreme discrimination.

In the sense of American absurdity, a literary work is beneficial for protesting something that is regarded as a

mistake. Forest Gump implicitly criticizes the attitude of American people engaging seriousness. He is the character who smiles at seriousness because he knows that life is absurd. "Life is of course absurd, and it is ludicrous to take it seriously. Only the comic is serious" (Bobrow, 1964:2). Forest Gump is characterized by Groom in the sense of humour to overcome its absurdity. Absurd humor in literature like *Forest Gump* often uses irony as tools of criticism.

This type of literary work is applied to criticize faults in a person, institution, or society. In Winston Groom's novel, absurd humor is based on incongruity, such as the discrepancy between what happens and what is expected to happen. In absurd literature, a character may act in a way that seems illogical or inappropriate, or two juxtaposed phrases may seem to contradict each other (Hammond, 2011:2).

In *Forrest Gump*, there is an attempt to challenge some aspects of its culture and ask how people should live. It seems to show the problems of human beings. Humans are finite creatures, aware of and estranged from the infinite. In simply statement, they are anxious.

This selfishness leads to violent acts toward another. This makes human loneliness and sense of estrangement even more acute. Human beings' desire is to be part of the infinite to overcome their separation from other beings. In existence, therefore, humanity is filled with anxiety and longing. It can be said they are occurring absurd situation.

Analyzing elements of absurdity in relatively realistic literature reveals that a story does not have to be completely ridiculous or completely serious. Authors can use elements of absurdity to enhance their message in any style of writing. Groom uses Gump as the unique man who re-interprets the events of the last few decades of the twentieth century in the United States of America where Vietnam War took a place. Groom criticizes the hardness of war by appearing the sense of humor. This is his strategy to emerge the element of absurdity. Therefore, Camus' theory of absurdity is used to determine the characteristic of absurd man in *Forest Gump*.

The absurd life emerges from mechanical pattern of life's routines. People even do not know if they are trapped in this prosaic routine. They often consider it as a normal way to live without assuming that there are other possibilities to live. The mechanical repetition unconsciously has trapped human being into absurd life. Human's facticity into absurdity is related to the situation surround him. Therefore, this step is done by investigating the condition of America that unconsciously forces human being into absurdity.

When people are trapped in the prosaic routine, their life will be meaningless. Within this rank, people are overwhelmed by absurdity. They are pushed to hope for everything. Meanwhile the reality is just providing the routine without ultimate achievement.

To solve this absurdity, people must accept the absurdity of life and they must go on living. Forrest is living his life even it is not easy to be abnormal. The important

thing is that he is happy. He feels that his life is full of meaning even he just learns the trivial action such playing harmonica. "I was real happy, an went for a walk an set down under a tree an played all day long, till I run out of things to play" (Groom, 1986:61).

Camus argues that to overcome absurdity, a person does not have a hope for an eternal future. That person constantly attempts to make his own meaning by using the limited resources at his disposal. These resources, according to Camus, are courage and reasoning. He lives out his adventure within the span of his lifetime (Camus, 1991: 64). In *Forrest Gump*, Winston Groom makes Forrest as the character who takes every possibility that occur in his life. Moreover, Forrest's existence is ruled by chance, not confined to the endless complexities of the modern world.

Finally, according to the repetition of Camus's argues, contemplation of nature can bring an awareness of the absurd. Perceiving that the world is "dense, sensing to what degree a stone is foreign or irreducible to us, with what intensity nature or a landscape can negate us" (Camus, 1991: 14). Camus finds something strange within the surface beauty of nature. This oddness distances nature from people, meanwhile Forrest comprehends that nature is not separated from himself.

#### Method of Research

This research uses a qualitative research method. This research applies library research that uses documentary technique to collect the data. Blaxter (2006: 187) describes that "documentary technique is preceded by abstracting from each document, those elements which are considered to be important or relevant, by grouping together those findings or setting them alongside others which we believe to be related". The primary data in this study is taken from Winston Groom's *Forest Gump*. The secondary data are taken from books about absurdity; *Forest Gump* by Winston Groom, *The Myth of Sisyphus* by Justin O'Brien, *Existentialism* by Jean Paul Sarte, and *Essays and the Rebel* by Anthony Bower.

In conducting this research, there are two steps to analyze the novel. The first step, this research investigates about the characteristic of absurdity in *Forest Gump*. It firstly analyzes the mechanical repetition in everyday life such portrayed in *Forest Gump*. The repetitive quality of modern life in fact conceals an underlying poverty of meaning. Camus writes:

"It happens that the stage sets collapse. Rising, streetcar, four hours in the office or the factory, meal, streetcar, four hours of work, meal, sleep, and Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday and Saturday according to the same rhythm this path is easily followed most of the time. But one day the 'why' arises and everything begins in that weariness tinged with amazement" (1991:12)

The mechanical repetition unconsciously has trapped human being into absurd life. Human's facticity into absurdity is related to the situation surround him. Therefore, this step is done by investigating the condition of America

that unconsciously forces human being into absurdity. The next is continued to analyze human's loss of meaning within his existential world.

The second step is applied to observe Winston Groom's way to dive and transcend all at once the absurd life through its authentic character; Forest Gump. This step is focused to the character of Forest Gump. It is useful to observe Gump's attitude toward time and mortality. He chooses to explore the world rather than to stay in certain place. Standing on peculiar place however makes Gump trapped on prosaic routine. For Camus, the passage of time may conceal people's awareness of the absurd. People know that they will be dead anytime. Camus often asks about the relation of life and death and often people do not want to think about their death because of their fear. This step observes people paradigm about their death and how their paradigm about death can trap them into absurd life. On contrary, Gump like Camus' Meursault finds his own paradigm about death.

The matter of death is indeed related to time. Without reflection, time carries people along in the flow of a river of unawareness, and yet people may suddenly become aware of the absurd at any moment. Therefore, this last step also investigate Gump's paradigm about contemplation. Contemplation of nature can bring an awareness of the absurd. Through the last analysis hopefully it is can finds that Forest Gump is the character that enters and transcends absurdity all at once.

#### Result of Data Analysis

The analysis of the data shows that Forrest Gump is intentionally created by Groom to conceive that the life of human is covered by absurdity. He implicitly criticizes the serious life of American people that push them into absurd life. The research is written to get an understanding about the concept of absurdity is presented in *Forest Gump* and how the character of Forest Gump in fact is able to overcome the absurd life. The absurd life emerges from mechanical pattern of life's routines. People even do not know if they are trapped in this prosaic routine. Meanwhile, Forrest tries to find another way running his life. He is the type of Camus' hero like Meursault that ignores the paradigm of common people. His life is conducted in his own way not common people's way. This seems to be a subversion, but it is needed to give a fresh thought when people live in prosaic routine and finally their life is meaningless.

The writer finds that Groom offers a solution to overcome absurdity that is characterized by prosaic routine and meaningless life. It is creativity. This creativity is upheld by exploring the world and doing contemplation.

To overcome absurdity, Forrest constantly attempts to make his own meaning of life by using the limited resources by exploring and contemplating the world. His creativity can be seen in his disability to live in normal way. He then makes some creative efforts to achieve his goal even he gets his creativity accidentally. Forest's creativity appears in his innocence like a baby where there is no mistake

because it is a baby. Therefore, creativity needs freedom. Forrest just explores the world as he wants. He is not burdened by social obligation.

#### Discussion

The absurd life emerges from mechanical pattern of life's routines. People even do not know if they are trapped in this prosaic routine. They often consider it as a normal way to live without assuming that there are other possibilities to live. Grooms describes that repetition is condition faced by human being. In the beginning of the novel, the first example of repetition happens when there is the rejection of young Forrest when he first goes to school by bus but he refused to sit by everyone and Jenny helps him. It is shown again when he grows-up, Forrest gets into the Army bus and is offered a seat by Bubba. On the other scene, Groom also shows that young Forrest is bullied by his friends. It happens again when he is adult. As a routine, common people will regard the idiot man as Forest in inferior position. The discrimination always happens toward the weak or stupid people. It is because many people commonly see human being based on their physical appearance.

For Groom's understanding, humans experience many repetition and they are trapped in this repetition even in their way of seeing. People just do what their ancestor do. It settles down in their collective unconsciousness. Victor Brombert in *Camus and the Novel of the Absurd* concludes Camus idea that "man is not only a stranger facing the world, but a stranger also in relation to himself" (1948:120). People do not dare to live in their own way. They just hold tradition and old values. It is because the values and law of tradition comforts people in peace. Moreover, they do not want to develop creative force. They defense themselves against something new because it disturbs their comfort. In the eye of society, the new means evil and the old means good. They do not feel comfort to see people based on what hides behind. To see Forrest not in his physical appearance is really hard. Therefore, people actually are alienated toward themselves because they often do not dare to change this inherited judgment. If they see the idiot people like Forrest, automatically their unconsciousness works by signing this idiot people as bad people so that the idiot people can be discriminated.

For Camus, this prosaic routine however deliberately forces human beings into nothingness and meaningless life. Camus describes this matter in *The Myth of Sisyphus*:

"The scenery suddenly collapses. Getting up, tramway, four hours in the office or factory, tramway, four hours work, meal, bed and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at the same regular pace, this is a road readily followed most of the time. One day, the 'why' confronts us and everything begins with weariness tinged with bewilderment. 'Begins,' this is important. Weariness is at the end of a life of mechanical actions but it initiates, at the same time, the

moment of awareness ... for everything starts with awareness and nothing counts without it" (1991, 12-13)

To live in normal life, human being lives in his prosaic routine. This prosaic routine reveals rebellion. This desire is a protest against the human being's actual condition in a disordered world. Camus's rebellion seems that the establishment of life affirming values will be a powerful response to the idealistic values of nihilism and total revolution. Without creativity, world will fall them in absurd life.

The society defense themselves against something new because it disturbs their comfort. In the eye of society, the new means evil and the old means good. They do not feel comfort to see people based on what hides behind. The absurd life emerges from mechanical pattern of life's routines. People even do not know if they are trapped in this prosaic routine. For example the two characters who trapped in absurd life that is; Bubba who wants to establish shrimp business just because his family has been working on that for centuries and Lt. Dan who wishes to die in combat like all his ancestors. These two characters are fallen into repetition that makes their life absurd. It proves that Groom shows when people only follow this repetition they will fail:

"After he had got out of the Army hospital, Dan went back to Connecticut to try to get back his old job teaching history. But they hadn't no history job available, so they made him teach math. He hated math, an besides, the math class was on the second floor of the school an he had a hell of a time makin it up the stairs with no legs an all. Also, his wife done run off with a tv producer that lived in New Yawk an she sued him for divorce on grounds of "incompatibility" (Groom, 1986:72)

They cannot make a creative action to adapt the world. World has changed a lot, meanwhile Bubba and Dan just follow what their ancestors did without any creative action. Finally, Dan never dies even his life is fulfilled by failure after he decides committing to die in battle.

The people who try to reject this prosaic routine will be called as deviant because he does not follow the common sense in the society; people was born, studied in university, got job, married and death was the ending. Dan follows this routine. He just adds to die in the battle. There is no chance to live for instance wandering. People are prohibited to live on his accordion if he distracts from those paradigm. They even will be considered as a mad man. Many people do not know the pleasure behind his motive. Groom describes this problem in his introduction of *Forrest Gump*, "There is a pleasure sure in being mad which none but madmen know" (1986:1). Forrest is the madman who knows his own pleasure.

Groom also shows other character that is trapped on absurd life. She is Jenny whom Forrest loves so much. As

prosaic routine, woman will seek for a rich, clever and handsome man. Forrest does not fulfill the criteria that Jenny looks for. She tries to find that person without thinking there is imperfect Forrest waiting for her. Jenny does not care with Forrest's affection. In her searching, she has to sentence into prison because she hit her man. The handsome and rich man cannot make her happy. In the prison, Jenny's promising land is getting blurred. She is far from her goal like a bird in the sea, without safe house.

Jenny is trapped to continuously find a good looking man without asking the man is regarded on his heart. In forest's preception many people commonly see human beings based on their physical appearance.

When people are trapped in this prosaic routine, his life will be meaningless. Within this rank, people are overwhelmed by absurdity. They are pushed to hope for everything, meanwhile the reality is just providing the routine without ultimate achievement. This situation is absurd. Camus states about absurdity that:

"The absurd is born of the confrontation between the human need and unreasonable silence of the world. This must not be forgotten. This must be clung to because the whole consequence of life can depend on it, the irrational, the human nostalgia, and the absurd that is born of their encounter"(Camus, 1991:28)

This excerpt can be described as the confrontations between our human demands for justice and rationality with a contingent and indifferent universe that always destabilize the justice. In the world, there is no ultimate justice. Therefore, life is meaningless. In this world man is confronting his obscurity since he cannot change it he rebels against it. It can be assumed that absurdity is the confrontation between man and the irrational world. It is shown in this excerpt. While doing their routine, they hope for a gift. When there is no gift, they will be brutal. For them, this brutality is the way to get meaning of life.

The one way to solve it is, people must accept the absurdity of life and we must go on living. Sisyphus is an absurd hero of Camus who stands in this irrational world and keeps living. Sisyphus is an example of the human condition struggling hopelessly to achieve something. For Forrest, happiness is most important than the meaning of his speaking. There is no ultimate, meaningful destination like Forrest's speaking. When common people will say legal speaking if they meet a great leader, Forrest prohibits this routine because he knows that this routine will not make Mao smile. What he finds if he says in formal speaking is merely the strictness and it is absurd. Forrest may think what we have to say in formal ascent if we only find the strictness.

"The interpreter translate that back to him, an Chairman Mao get a odd expression on his face, an look at me funny, but then his eyes light up an he break out with a big smile, an start shakin my han an noddin his head like one of them little dolls with a spring for a

neck. People took pitchers of that, an afterward they was in the American newspapers. But I ain't never tole nobody till now what I said to make him smile that way" (Groom, 1986:40)

In this excerpt, Forrest meets with Chinese Chairman, Mao. He tells that he has made him smile. People will not imagine Mao's smile in newspaper because of Forrest. Even, as a routine, common people will say with formal conversation if they meet a great leader. Forrest prohibits this routine because he knows that this routine will not make Mao smile.

To conclude Camus idea, it is found that the existence of the absurd permits two possibilities for the human being. People can reject the existence of the absurd through a lapse in lucidity or through a leap in reason. A leap is an "escape" in which "the struggle is eluded" by imposing some meaning upon reality that originates outside of the realm of lived experience (Camus, 1991:35).

"At that subtle moment when man glances backward over his life, Sisyphus returning toward his rock in that slight pivoting he contemplates that series of unrelated actions which becomes his fate, created by him combined under the eyes of his memories and soon sealed by his death"(Camus, 1991:123)

A man will lives with his own philosophy and with his own principal that occurs to Forrest who live with his way of life eventhought it not easy to be an abnormal person. He choose "the struggle is eluded" for overcome his absurdity.

The important thing is that he is happy. He feels that his life is full of meaning. He can do everything that normal people cannot do such laughing with Mao, a leader of Chinese Communist Party. On the other case, While Jenny hates her childhood home and throws rocks when she returns as an adult, Forrest is always eager to return to his home and even brings his son and wife back there. While Forrest is a constant character who acts according to what he believes is right, Jenny and Lieutenant Dan represent emotional growth, since they have to go through stages of different pain. Finally, Jenny sentences into prison.

"She have been arrested the day before, an spent the night in the women's jail, an this mornin, fore anybody could get her out, the people at the jail done said she might have lice or somethin in her hair cause it so long an all, an they had all her hair shaved off. Jenny is bald" (Groom, 1986:49)

These two characters come together as similar that they have a destiny needed to fulfill. Lieutenant Dan is more aware of what his destiny should be – fighting and dying in an American war – while Jenny is still searching for hers truly self. In her searching, he has to sentence into prison. In

the prison, Jenny's promised land is getting blur. She is far from his freedom like bird in the sea, without safe house. She is exile. Her situation is absurd.

Camus argues that to overcome absurdity, a person does not have a hope for an eternal future. That person constantly attempts to make his own meaning by using the limited resources at his disposal. These resources, according to Camus, are courage and reasoning. He lives out his adventure within the span of his lifetime (Camus, 1991: 64). In *Forrest Gump*, Winston Groom makes Forrest as the character that takes every possibility occurred in his life. Moreover, Forrest's existence is ruled by chance, not confined to the endless complexities of the modern world. Forrest is even described helplessness. It is different from Lt. Dan and other characters who are more energetic and active. Their paths lead towards oblivion and just in vain while Gump's exploration in his world makes him a champion athlete, military hero, millionaire businessman and family man. Forrest is a hero who succeeds by accident and by drifting along with things as they are.

The point in this novel is that, if Forrest does not have an IQ that proves to be below normal, his story will not be told. The only way he has an effect on the world is because of his innocence and his simplicity. The Jenny character stands out for her representative role. She is associated with a variety of counter-cultural movements throughout the novel. While Forrest attends college, joins the Army, is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, working for NASA, she is thrown out of college, takes drugs, participates in the summer of love.

"After she lef The Cracked Eggs, Jenny done gone to Chicago with this girl she met in the peace movement. They had demonstrated in the streets an got thowed in jail a bunch of times an Jenny say she is finally gettin tired of havin to appear in court an besides, she is concerned that she is developin a long police record" (Groom, 1986:75)

In Groom's understanding, humans experience many repetition and they are trapped in this repetition even in their way of seeing. People just do what their ancestor do. It settles down in their collective unconsciousness.

In this case, Forrest like Sisyphus, he does not ultimate purpose and destiny. He just explores the world as he wants. The most important thing is that he does not burden social obligation. If Forrest is regarded still bearing social obligation, He just bears his burden with absurd pride and sees that it is the only thing that is left to him. In his theory, Camus writes that Sisyphus does not have an ultimate destiny. Sisyphus is punished by the gods to roll a boulder up and down a hill until uncertain time. However, if Sisyphus has an ultimate goal, for example to build a temple, and the temple is to be completed, he will not know what he has to do again. Sisyphus lives under the chasm of despair. For Camus, by rolling a boulder, Sisyphus is able to rejoice in life, hoping for nothing because there is nothing more. Sisyphus does not feel sad, "The struggle itself towards the

heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy" (1991:111).

Camus argues that contemplation of nature can bring an awareness of the absurd. Perceiving that the world is "dense, sensing to what degree a stone is foreign or irreducible to us, with what intensity nature or a landscape can negate us" (Camus, 1991: 14). Camus finds something strange within the surface beauty of nature. This oddness distances nature from people, meanwhile Forrest comprehends that nature is not separated from himself.

"It did rain. Rained cats an dogs an I foun me a awnin to stand under till some guy come out an run me off. I was soakin wet an cold an walkin past some government buildin in Washington when I seen a big ole plastic garbage bag settin in the middle of the sidewalk. Just as I get close to it, the bag commenced to move a little bit, like there is somethin in there" (Groom, 1986:71)

This rain makes people a way to avoid. However, people try to ask Forrest coming inside. For Camus, encounters with nature can trigger the feeling of the absurd, a feeling of strange, otherness and of lost meaning. Forrest conceives that living in contemporary culture and digital culture on makes loss of human contact and distancing from nature. The contemplation of time also has a function to overcome absurdity. Without contemplation, Camus writes, time carries us along in the flow of a river of unawareness, and yet we may suddenly become aware of the absurd at any moment:

"But a moment always comes when we have to carry it. We live on the future: 'tomorrow,' 'later on,' 'when you have made your way,' 'you will understand when you are old enough' ...Yet a day comes when a man notices or says that he is thirty. Thus he asserts his youth. But simultaneously he situates himself in relation to time. He takes his place in it. He admits that he stands at a certain point on a curve that he acknowledges having to travel to its end" (Camus, 1991: 13)

In this case the contemplation of nature is also known by Forrest after he meets Dan. His encounter to Lieutenant Dan gives him good thought about philosophy of life. He teaches Forrest that life is controlled by natural law. There are many things that cannot be understood rationally by our mind. Rationality like declared by Cartesian theory tends to reduce reality in terms of thought. It is stated by Camus: "Likewise, the mind that aims to understand reality can consider itself satisfied only by reducing it to terms of thought. If man realized that the universe like him can love and suffer, he would be reconciled" (1991:13). The advice from Lieutenant Dan shows him clearly that we have to follow natural law then at the proper time, people must make a creative shoot to place his position in the world.

All my own life, I ain't understood shit about what was goin on. A thing jus happen, then

somethin else happen, then somethin else, an so on, an haf the time nothin makin any sense. But Dan say it is all part of a scheme of some sort, an the best way we can get along is figger out how we fits into the scheme, an then try to stick to our place. Somehow knowin this, things get a good bit clearer for me"(Groom, 1986:30)

This contemplation gives Forrest a deep understanding about what life is. Forrest accepts his physical and mental disabilities. In contrast, Lt Dan's disability that works as a reminder of American involvement in Vietnam War even gives him a feeling of guilty and absurd. This novel presents disability as a state of mind, a problem of psychological self-acceptance.

The contemplation done by scientific expert is based on rationalist choice as if the world is consisted by fixed law of causality. Since Forrest his IQ is just 75, he cannot think absolutely rational. However, it does not mean that he cannot be successful man instead his IQ is under average. This occurrence proves that world cannot be comprehended only by rationality. There are always possibilities outside rationality. The contemplation done by Forrest is based on his innate feeling.

Forrest in Groom's novel in this case exactly represents the "new man", the egalitarian, the sympathetic man to the marginalized people. He becomes a football star, a successful entrepreneur, a spiritual leader and a wise father, therefore he lives up to the fantasies of a traditional masculinity. Forrest is to be representative of the ideals of an All-American culture in his period.

### Conclusion

Winston Groom through his novel *Forest Gump* creates the type of absurd man and all at one transcends his absurdity. In *Forrest Gump*, there is an attempt to challenge some aspects of its culture and ask how people should live. It seems to show the problem of human beings. One of the problems happen when people are trapped in this prosaic routine. Then, His life will be meaningless. Within this rank, people are overwhelmed by absurdity. They are pushed to hope for everything, meanwhile the reality is just providing the routine without ultimate achievement. Winston Groom in this novel implicitly suggests that without creativity, world will fall them in absurd life.

Finally, this journal concludes that Forest is the absurd hero in Groom's version. He is able to comprehend that life is so absurd. Exploration, contemplation, makes a joke and always says yes to life are his keys to live and to transcend his absurd world.

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