



**REVEALING THE EXISTENTIALISM IN THE LYRIC OF FREDDIE
MERCURY'S BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY**

THESIS

Written by:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2018**



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This thesis is submitted to the English Department, Faculty of Humanities,
Jember University as one of the requirements to achieve
Sarjana Sastra degree in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to Kanjeng Prophet Muhammad SAW, my mother F.M. Ratminiwati, my father Deden Achmad, my elders, my gurus and my brother Demi Ardhy Nugraha, my love Suci Rahmawati, my close friend Alfin Rahardian for every love and prayer they have given me throughout my life.



MOTTO

Bener tur pener.

Java repertoire



DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “Revealing the Existentialism in the Lyric of Freddie Mercury’s *Bohemian Rhapsody*” is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any helps received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, July...2018

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Hopefully, this thesis can give contribution towards the English Studies, especially those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of literature.

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Demi Aji Sanjaya



SUMMARY

Revealing the Existentialism in the Lyric of Freddie Mercury's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Demi Aji Sanjaya, 130110101044; 2018: 51 pages; English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Jember University.

This research analyses the existentialism issue that presented in the lyric of Bohemian Rhapsody. The existentialism issue illustrated in Bohemian Rhapsody is constructed, sustained and defended through particular discourse which is presented in the lyric. It is through this discourse formation that Freddie Mercury conveys his ideas and asserts his ideological interest as the writer of Bohemian Rhapsody. In order to make the analysis constructive, I use the theory of representation by Stuart Hall.

This research uses qualitative research since the data are in the form of sentences or word. Data related to the topic of the main object matter are taken from poem as the prominent source data, dictionary, theoretical books which belongs to the theory used in this research. And also, some data in this research come from many other sources, such as some journal, articles and taken from the internet. Hence, I apply the qualitative research method in writing this research to analyze the data related to the Existentialism in Bohemian Rhapsody lyrics by Mercury Mercury.

The result of this research shows that Freddie Mercury tries to criticize the world phenomenon, especially in the relation between Human and GOD through the lyric of Bohemian Rhapsody. Mercury becomes as an existentialist because he sees phenomena and try to criticizes that phenomena by using existentialism thought. Through Bohemian Rhapsody that contain existentialism, he delivers his idea and spread his critic impliedly. Mercury's critical position is explored and explained briefly. As Zaraustra, Mercury impliedly tries to warn people and government about the development of Wahhabism in Britain by putting two words code, *Bismillah* and Galileo. By related that two word and also Mercury's history religion, one phenomenon on that time is revealed as the power that made Mercury

developed the lyric. As musician, this is the way of Mercury to share his idea and critic. In the beginning of development of the lyric, Mercury has an idea to use “Prophets Song” as the tittle, but finally, “Bohemian Rhapsody” seemed the one.

In conclusion, the ideological interest of Freddie Mercury through existentialism view is explained. Mercury indirectly criticize religion authority and also some humans who abusing the nature of GOD, Religion doctrine and their position as the implementers and watchman of GOD commandment to get something that they want such as power and authority.

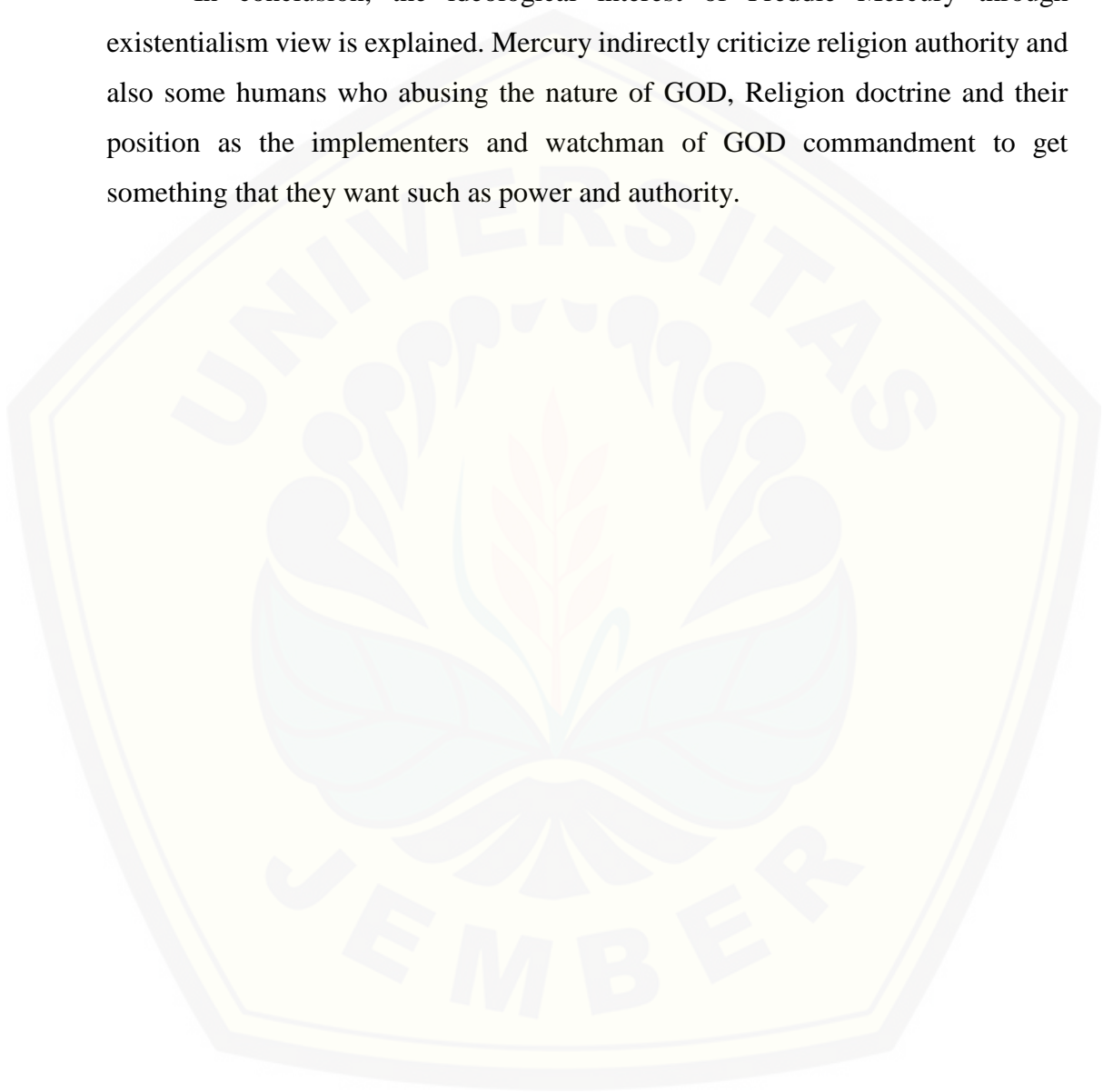


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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

The first chapter provides the basic idea in conducting this research. This chapter consists of the background of study, the topic of discussion, the research questions and the goals of the study.

1.1 The Background of Study

Bohemian Rhapsody is a single by Queen and written by Farrokh Bulsara as known as Freddie Mercury from the album *A Night at The Opera*. This song started to be developed in late 1960's and then released on 31 October 1975. *Bohemian Rhapsody* is a very complex song because it is hard for common people to find the exact meaning of the song. Until now, there is no official statement from Queen Band, the members of the band and also Mercury himself that told us about the meaning behind the song lyric. Mercury was combined some ways to sing and arrange *Bohemian Rhapsody* such as ballad, opera, and hard rock.

Bohemian Rhapsody itself was very popular in the 1970's. Moreover, the lyrics of *Bohemian Rhapsody* is interesting to discuss because it has a deep meaning which cannot be separated from existentialistic point of view of the writer—Freddie Mercury. On that time, Mercury as a musician and poet writer made a beautiful poem and meaningful lyric. A masterpiece that no one understands fully about what Mercury wrote and sang, yet still makes everyone enjoy it. Moreover, that song became the number 1 chart around the world.

As the meaning of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Bohemian Rhapsody* consists of two words which mean a pleasure, fun or excitement to become a person who lives in freedom. Based on *oxford dictionary*, bohemian means socially unconventional in an artistic way and rhapsody is an effusively enthusiastic or ecstatic expression of feeling. Therefore, basically *Bohemian Rhapsody* is someone who lives in freedom and different from common people because these people do not follow a common thing.

Bohemian Rhapsody is a song. But lyric of the song also has a poem content. According to Zapruder (2012) stated that some musical artists have all set poems by contemporary poets to music, with exciting and gorgeous results. They use their

considerable skill and sensitivity to design music. As one of the products of literature, lyric of a song is determined as a poem which is often used to describe the emotional feeling of the writers. The emotional feeling that is filled on the lyric sometimes has their life story. Most of it can be analysed to get the intended meaning or even the ideology behind the poem or the lyric. Suitable with the popularization of the lyric, the elements of the lyric can be understood by many people, such as intro, verse, bridge, chorus and etc. Not only that, the elements of the lyric also give effects to the way of thinking of people who read it, or even encourage them to agree with it. For example, the lyric of a romance song is often enjoyed by many people who are falling in love at the moment, or people who are in the broken-hearted condition may agree and enjoy a song about desperation. In other words, the lyric of a song can bring a big effect to the conditions of person and also society. So, the lyric of the song also can be literature research object.

The lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Mercury shows many aspects of existentialism. In some parts of the lyric, Mercury says about his meaningless life because something happened to him. Something just made him conscious and feels sorry about that, and he tries to face it. In other lyrics, he also talks about his confusion to live the life. In this lyric, we can see that there are some points showing that life has no meaning or value. And also, there are some religion verses from a holy book of a particular religion and the culture of Europe in the Renaissance that he inputted on his lyric.

Existentialism ideology that used in this research is made by Jean Paul Sartre. Existentialism ideology explained by Sartre will be the ideology that will be searched and explored in *Bohemian Rhapsody* lyric. According to Webber (2009: 8) the basic principal of Existentialism is *Existence precedes essence*. It means that we have to be conscious about our "I" first before we start to do something or we can say before we made our purpose. How can people have an essence if his "I" does not exist? With respect to the universe, existential suggests that a single human or even the entire human species is insignificant, without purpose and unlikely to change in the totality of existence. According to the ideology of existentialism of nihilism, each individual is an isolated being born into the universe, barred from

knowing "why", yet compelled to invent meaning. The inherent meaninglessness of life is largely explored in the philosophical school of existentialism, where one can potentially create their own subjective "meaning" or "purpose".

Commonly, existentialism is an atheist view because it abolishes the existence of God on its explanation of the ideology (in Cline, 2017). Although existentialism issue assumed in this lyric, but we can see Mercury put some religion word in his lyric. Mercury put the combination between religion and ideology content in *Bohemian Rhapsody* lyric. By assuming that *Bohemian Rhapsody* has some existentialism content on it, therefore this research is conducted to find out the purposes of Mercury in writing *Bohemian Rhapsody* through Existentialism.

Representation theory by Hall will be used in this research to elaborate the existentialism issues in *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The constructionist approach which is proposed by Foucault helps to find out the context and knowledge by discourse through language. The representation theory will be used as a tool to get the sign from the text then knowing the intended meaning that want be delivered by the writer, then the critical theory of Foucault will be used to give broad view about socio-cultural context used in the lyric, so that the discourse of *Bohemian Rhapsody* which is related to the issue of existentialism can be revealed. Foucault argues that discourse constructs the topic. It defines and argues the object of our knowledge. Discourse also doesn't exist of one statement, one text, one action or one source (Hall, 1997: 44). According to that statement, discursive way chosen because the context and knowledge of group or part of lyrics are used to answer the research question and lead us to the goal of this research.

At the end, hopefully this research proves that *Bohemian Rhapsody* can be become a good material for every people to understand about Existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre and become an evidence that proves if literary works are media or the way of the writer to express or say something, it can be love, critics, culture, social condition, ideology, GOD and etc.

1.2 The Research Topic

The topic of discussion is important in doing a research. It is the starting point in conducting research. It will never be successful doing research without knowing

the topic because it is the main discussion in the research. As far as I concern, this research is about God and Human.

1.3 Research Questions

I formulate the questions that will be divided in two parts because the appearance of existential issue in *Bohemian Rhapsody* and also use of existentialism ideology in the delivery of his ideological in the lyric. The questions mentioned as follows:

1. How are the existential issues contained in *Bohemian Rhapsody*?
2. What is ideological interest in *Bohemian Rhapsody*?

1.4 Purposes

The purposes consist of several points to know the aim of this research which relates to research questions:

1. To elaborate existential issues in *Bohemian Rhapsody*.
2. To find out Freddie Mercury's critical position in *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

All research results will become the evidences that prove if literary work is media of the writer to say something; it can be love, critics, culture, social condition, ideology, GOD and etc.

1.5 The Lyric of Bohemian Rhapsody

Written by Freddie Mercury

Album A Night at the Opera

[Intro]

*Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?
Caught in a landslide, no escape from reality
Open your eyes, look up to the skies and see
I'm just a poor boy, I need no sympathy
Because I'm easy come, easy go, little high, little low
Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me, to me*

[Verse 1]

*Mama, just killed a man
Put a gun against his head, pulled my trigger, now he's dead
Mama, life had just begun
But now I've gone and thrown it all away*

*Mama, ooh, didn't mean to make you cry
If I'm not back again this time tomorrow
Carry on, carry on as if nothing really matters*

[Verse 2]

*Too late, my time has come
Sends shivers down my spine, body's aching all the time
Goodbye, everybody, I've got to go
Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth
Mama, ooh, (any way the wind blows)
I don't want to die
I sometimes wish I'd never been born at all*

[Verse 3]

*I see a little silhouette of a man
Scaramouche, Scaramouche, will you do the Fandango?
Thunderbolt and lightning, very, very fright'ning me
(Galileo.) Galileo. (Galileo.) Galileo. Galileo Figaro magnifico
I'm just a poor boy, nobody loves me
He's just a poor boy from a poor family
Spare him his life from this monstrosity
Easy come, easy go, will you let me go?
Bismillah! No, we will not let you go
(Let him go!) Bismillah! We will not let you go
(Let him go!) Bismillah! We will not let you go
(Let me go) Will not let you go
(Let me go) Will not let you go
(Let me go) Ah
No, no, no, no, no, no, no
(Oh mamma mia, mamma mia) Mamma mia, let me go
Beelzebub has a devil put aside for me, for me, for me!*

[Verse 4]

*So you think you can stone me and spit in my eye?
So you think you can love me and leave me to die?
Oh, baby, can't do this to me, baby!
Just gotta get out, just gotta get right outta here!*

[Outro]

*Nothing really matters, anyone can see
Nothing really matters
Nothing really matters to me
Any way the wind blows*

(Anonymous, 2018)

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of 3 subchapters, previous researches, ideology perspective and theoretical perspective. The previous researches provide about the previous researches that have a contribution to this study. Ideology perspective will explain the basic understanding of existentialism. The relationship of Existentialism ideology with the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody* will be elaborated using Representation theory. Representation theory will be explained in theoretical perspective sub chapter. Theoretical framework sub chapter will show the main scheme how I used representation theory to elaborate the relation of Existentialism with the Lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

2.1 Previous research

The first previous research is *Sartre's Existentialist Viewpoint in No Exit* that was written by Senejani (in Senejani, 2013). This journal is aimed to reveal the significance and absurdity of *No Exit* play, as the symbol of development absurd drama after World War II, which influence other ideas of plays in half twentieth century later. Through ideas of making *No Exit* as the birth of important play, the research tries to analyze it through Sartre's notion to seek the meaning of the moral and metaphysical implications of the German occupation of France during World War II (Senejani, 2013: 15). Thus, I use this research as the previous research to clarify Sartre's theory as the reference of doing the thesis. Sartre's theory talks about existentialism which is called as the heart of existentialism. The theory is defined as the refusal to belong to any school of thought, the repudiation of the adequacy of any body of beliefs whatever, and especially of systems, and a marked dissatisfaction with traditional philosophy as superficial, academic, and remote from life (Senejani, 2013: 15). Its message is that individuals are responsible for what they have done, for who they are, for how and in what way they face and deal with the world, and ultimately responsible for the way the world is (Senejani, 2013: 16). Existentialism is also connected to absurdism in which its absurdity is the offspring of existentialism. Moreover, absurdism confirms the meaningless of human's life. As Sartre's proposal of existentialism, he confirms that there are

several parts which build existentialism itself. They are existence that precedes essence; time is of the essence, humanism, freedom/responsibility, and paramount of ethical considerations (Senejani, 2013: 16). This research concludes that *No Exit* is as the intense and compressed dramatic parable, the core existential truth; means human must ultimately face the truth and consequences. Therefore, it is forced to an inescapable encounter with others who provide the measure for moral judgment (Senejani, 2013: 23). In this stage, the meaning of *No Exit* enclosed to Sartre's view of the establishment modern morality play. Besides, the themes and methods of the play emerged in the text improve the absurdity and searching new meaning of life (Senejani, 2013:23).

The second previous research is *Bohemian Rhapsodies: Operatic Influences on Rock Music* that was written by McLeod (McLeod, 2001). McLeod (McLeod, 2011: 189) said that This article focused on recognizing opera's cross relations with rock offers new insights into the postmodern blurring of traditional distinctions between 'high' and 'low' art and broadens our understanding of both genres. First, I use this research to be a standard of comparison because this article focused on the music, such as opera and rock and in my research, I focused on the lyric and find out the connection between the lyric and ideology. Second, I use this to find out how Freddie Mercury delivers the lyric by the way he chooses. We can see he mixes few genres to deliver the lyric such as ballad, opera, and rock. From that way, at least we can find out some connection between the meaning and ideology of the lyric with how he delivers the lyric by some sound or music.

The third previous research is *Podcast: The REAL Meaning behind "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen!* (Stumme, 2016). This is a video explanation by university writing centre director who teaches literature classes. He explains briefly and takes a serious look at the meaning behind *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen. He says that the best possibility ideology in *Bohemian Rhapsody* is about Nihilism because at the outro, the lyric shows the meaningless life. "Nothing really matters" lyric, conclude that everything from the intro till the last line is useless. To make easy understanding for the viewer, Clifford Stume makes a story by his own understanding from the intro until the *outro* to elaborate the meaning behind the

lyric. He also uses the musical styles to help him elaborate each part of the lyric and then concludes that the most important parts are the three different musical styles going in this song such ballad, opera and hard rock. After I hear Stume's explanation from his video about the meaning behind the lyrics and also the way he compares the music style and the lyric, I use this research as a supporter research that help me answers the research questions. Even I use almost same way, but I have my own understanding about the meaning behind the lyric because we have different background understanding to processes each words of the lyric.

2.2 The Existentialism

Existentialism perspective will be the issue because the topic being discussed shows the existentialism ideology content. *Bohemian Rhapsody* describes a human who in the process of taking action of a phenomena. In the lyric, Mercury illustrates how the main character feel, think, and do about the phenomena. This situation, related with Jean-Paul Sartre thought about human existence. The existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre is an account of the way that we humans exist, in contrast to the ways in which such things as chairs and tables, flowers and trees, rocks and planets, and cats and dogs exist. It aims to elaborate the central structures of our lives, around which all the things that we do are built. Existentialism by Sartre used because *Bohemian Rhapsody* illustrates some situation about human existence who react in his consciousness. At this moment, the essence of human which is after his existence described briefly in Existentialism illustration inside of *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

In Sartre's Existentialism, he likes to say that all of our experiences and actions are in some sense chosen, but he does not mean that when we are confronted with something we decide how it will look to us, how we will feel about it, what we will think about it, and what we will do about it. He uses the language of choice in this way to emphasise his view that we have reflective control over the deeper aspects of ourselves that in turn determine how things will look to us, how we will feel in response to things, and the relative importance each consideration will have for us when we deliberate about what to do (Webber, 2009).

The basic understanding of Sartre's Existentialism is "*Existence precedes an essence*" (Webber, 2009;8). To explore that, now we think about an opposite opinion "*Essence precedes an existence*". Essence is the idea, definition or function of something. We can talk in thought of human creation, essence truly precedes existence. For example, it is in the creation of scissors. First, the creator will meet some circumstances when he needs something to finish some activities. These circumstances are when he needs something to cut a paper. After thinking every possibility, finally he creates something that can cut a paper, the first thing is called scissor. In this case, the IDEA about thing precedes the creation. The value of the creation depends on how good the creation matches with the idea (the function). So, the scissors which cannot cut a paper are bad scissors or even it is not scissors at all.

In addition, Sartre says when most of all people judge people with the same way, that is believe that "human essence precedes his existence". In this understanding, like scissors, a human who does not match with his criteria that has already specified before is a bad human. When other people judge about everything of someone else and they are influenced from its judgment, they are shackled by people opinions and make them as an object from people's view. As an object, they are inactive things. Thus, they blame their opinion and became a result on something outside of ourselves that does not exist except as an invention of the mind of man who is living a lie, the lie that being a man which is does not have the freedom to do or to be what we will.

Sartre's ontology is defined in two types of reality which lie beyond our conscious experience: the being of the object of consciousness and that of consciousness itself. The object of consciousness exists as "in-itself," that is, in an independent and non-relational way. However, consciousness is always consciousness "of something," so it is defined in relation to something else, and it is not possible to grasp it within a conscious experience: it exists as "for-itself." An essential feature of consciousness is its negative power, by which we can experience "nothingness." This power is also at work within the self, where it creates an

intrinsic lack of self-identity. So, the unity of the self is understood as a task for the *for-itself* rather than as a given.

According to Sartre's ideology of existentialism, we have full authority to choose our own decision of any kinds of things or phenomena in our life. We are what we have willing ourselves to be. No one is to blame for what we become, but ourselves. Our lives are determined by our own actions, but not by anything outside of ourselves. According to Sartre, since man has no essence therefore we are not determined by heredity or some kind of determinism. Man makes himself by his actions, but man has the ability to change his actions at any time, because man is free to do so. Someone who has a bad faith, is the man who believes in things like "I was born bad," or I was born this way, and I can't change, or the ever popular "The God made me do it." (Alstrom, 2008).

That is right if past has a "*facticity*". There are some facts in past that we cannot change such as "I was born in Indonesia", "I was born as a boy" or "My parents choose Muslim for my identity" and I cannot change that. But, there is nothing in past that can make me doing everything in present (Webber, 2009: 19).

To understand that theory, I will take a phenomenon in our life for an example. There are four friends who create a business. One day, they face a problem that other factories try to make their business fall and make their business collapses. The first person desperate and quit his business "it is done for me". From Sartre perspective, this person has chosen the business problem facticity as a thing that cannot be fixed. He chooses to be a coward. The second person sees this problem as a beauty and tries to meet another group. He chooses this problem facticity as a chance to join another group of business. He chooses to leave his group. The third person just sits, doing nothing, to take no responsibility about this problem. The fourth person says "definitely there must be a solution to saves this company and beat another group" This man has chosen this problem facticity as a challenge to make this company bigger.

Sartre perspective on that story is that he does not believe if there must be something in the past that determines each person in the business group story. There

is nothing in these four-person's past facticity or even in the business problem facticity that determine each person in the group reaction in facing the problem. This group cannot deny the business problem facticity but each person in a group can choose the meaning of the problem for himself. Because in himself (person in a business group), facticity does not have a meaning. Those meaning sources are decisions of the individual side. There are always alternative interpretations from the meaning that exist because we never faced with one possible choice, radical option always exists. And this radical option is dead. Every person in the group may decide that they do not to continue their lives because the problem that exists made them so suffer. This option shows us if the other options are chosen as alternative option than dead. When you wake up in the morning and you are not killing yourself (in fact you are not doing that) you choose to get up (beside dead) and take any responsibility and consequences of this option.

Sartre agrees with Nietzsche, the philosopher at 19th century when he said that God is dead. Sartre's opinion about this theory is if there is no GOD, hence there is no idea in GOD's mind to become criteria of human. When GOD does not exist, it means human alone and free. Therefore, every time human can recreate his essence through his choices and acts. Recall, for example, that the worst war in American history was fought by Christians against Christians over the issue of slavery (Martone, 2014).

As Sartre points out in "Existentialism is a Humanism", even once you have made this initial choice, the believer is still left to interpret signs, in for all practical purposes the same way the atheist must: simply believing in a God will not tell you how to make many of the most important choices you must make as you will your life into meaning; it will not tell you who to marry, for example, where to live, which career to choose, or even when to support or not support war.

Sartre distinguishes, however, two levels of truth about humanity. The empirical truth about humanity differs from society to society and from age to age because there is no common human nature that helps to explain our practices, just the sets of projects we pursue. There is, nonetheless, a deeper underlying truth that unites all of humanity, the universal human condition. This is made clear in the

parallel distinction he draws between two forms of humanism: one that lauds the empirical reality of humanity by taking the achievements of actual human beings to be indicative of some kind of human nature, and one that recognizes and values the underlying structure of what it is to be human, the kind of existence we have. Sartre rejects the former on the grounds that there is no underlying nature that accounts for these ‘admirable deeds of certain men’. He recommends the latter and calls it ‘existentialist humanism’, or ‘existentialism’ for short (Warburton, 1996).

2.3 The Theory of Representation

The theory of representation is very beneficial to be used in this research. As Hall believes that representation is the production of meaning through language (Hall, 2003: 23), so this research needs the theory to find the ideology of existentialism in the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Hall also divides representation into three approaches; those are reflective approach, intentional approach, and constructionist approach (Hall, 2003:37). It can be simply showed in the hierarchy below:

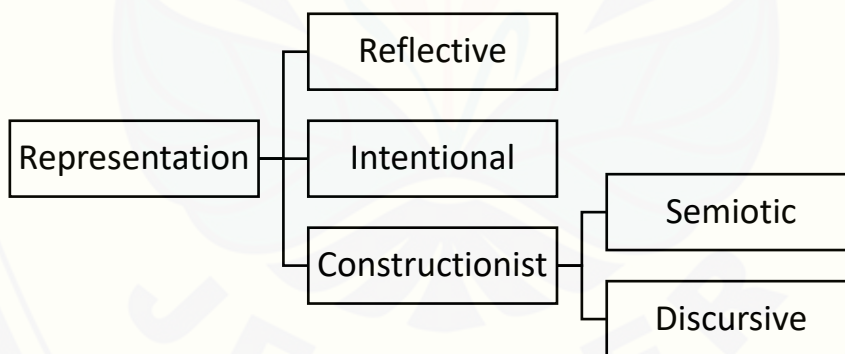


Figure 1. Hierarchy of Representation

First, Reflective approach is basic approach in our society because language reflect meaning like a mirror. Hall (1997: 24-25) said that reflective approach simply reflects the truth that is already there and fixed in the world. Even each society, culture or nation has a different word to name the thing that talked about. Second, Intentional approach is approach when the author imposes the meaning through language. Sometimes, the meaning delivered in unique way or only us or

private group of people who use this way to deliver the meaning to the world. Third is Constructionist approach. This approach not focused on material world and the true meaning. Because in this approach, material world does not convey meaning, but author, writer or social actors using a kind of language system to represent the concepts. They use their conceptual systems of their culture and the linguistic to construct meaning and communicate the others (Hall, 1997: 25). According to those approaches, the most suitable approach to reveal the ideology of the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody* is constructionist representation theory.

There are 2 ways in constructionist approach to represent the meaning. Semiotic way which uses sign and discursive way which uses discourse are applied to construct the meaning. Discursive way proposed by Foucault is chosen to explore the ideology issue in *Bohemian Rhapsody*. He outlined three salient ideas, first is discourse concept, second is the issue of power and knowledge, and the last is question of subject (Hall, 1997).

The first shift intention in discursive approach is Foucault focuses on “discourse” not “language”. Language is a material in discourse as a system of representation to products knowledge. By discourse, Foucault meant a group of statements which provide a language for talking about. Foucault argued that discourse constructs the topic and also defines and produces our object of knowledge. The same discourse will appear across a range of texts and as forms of conduct at a number of different institutional sites within society (Hall, 1997: 44). 'Reframing' is a way to talk about going back and re-interpreting the meaning of the first sentence. Frame analysis is a type of discourse analysis that asks, what activity are speakers engaged in when they say this, what do they think they are doing by talking in this way at this time. Consider how hard it is to make sense of what you are hearing or reading if you don't know whose talking or what the general topic is.

Then the issue of power and knowledge focussed on how knowledge represent through discursive practices in specific institutional settings to regulate the conduct of other. Foucault says it is about the relation between power and knowledge and how power can control the knowledge. Knowledge never get out in

relation with power because knowledge always being applied to the regulation of social conduct in practice (Hall, 1997: 49). Knowledge linked to power, not only assumes the authority of 'the truth' but has the power to *make itself true*. All knowledge once applied in the real world, has real effects, and in that sense at least, 'becomes true'. Knowledge once used to regulate the conduct of others, entail constraint, regulation and the disciplining practice. Thus, according to Foucault, there is no power relation without the correlative constitution of a field of knowledge (Foucault, 1977: 27).

For example, in Vietnam war, Rambo movie try to produce understanding if his side won the battle, has the greatest army and one side is the greatest. People can see it from this movie how knowledge constructed and produced through discourse using a language (movie) as a material. It makes sense how power has a major influence in our society to constructs and produces knowledge through discourse.

The last is question of subject. There are two difference senses or places in Foucault's subject. First, discourse produces subject. In this part, discourse mention subject attribute so subject can be expected such as the mad man, the homosexual the crazy guy, the mean criminal and etc. Second, discourse produces a place for the subject (such as the reader or viewer who is also subjected by discourse). Subject shows by subjecting himself to discourse meanings, power and regulation. All discourses then construct subject position, from which alone they make sense (Hall, 1997: 56).

The core purpose of this theory is that how does the discourse using language as a material can construct a meaning. Through the lyric of the song, a meaning of existentialism of the writer that has been constructed can be understood by other people. Therefore, the intention of revealing the ideology of existentialism can be fulfilled.

2.4 Critical Theory of Discourse by Foucault

Discourse analysis is a flexible term. It appears that many scholars using discourse analysis within a Foucauldian framework have adopted a 'Foucauldianistic' reticence to declare method, fearful perhaps of the charge of prescriptive. There are those again who make references to 'doing' discourse analysis and because they loosely link their analysis to motifs of power and sporadically cite Foucault, there is an assumption that this too is 'Foucauldian' discourse analysis. In any case, it is quite difficult to find coherent descriptions of how one might go about discourse analysis using Foucault. Perhaps the difficulty in locating concise descriptions as to how to go about doing 'Foucauldian' discourse analysis is because there is no such thing?

In this paper, I will discuss about the existentialism existed in the lyric of Bohemian Rhapsody that has an engagement with Muslim and other religion given by the context of society at that time. Despite there being no model for discourse analysis qua Foucault, should one claim to be drawing on a Foucauldian framework there is a very real danger in one's work being dismissed as unFoucauldian - if one doesn't get it right. But how can one get it wrong when there are supposedly no rules to follow?

This is an interesting but precarious dilemma that has an exclusive/exclusionary effect (see O'Farrell, 2005). For this reason, some perceive Foucauldian theory as inaccessible and dangerous (O'Farrell, 2005), which deters some researchers particularly those in more practice-oriented fields from engaging with this form of analysis. There will develop what is called a discursive analytic; a methodological plan with which I can set about doing a form of discourse analysis that is informed by and consistent with the work of Michel Foucault.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research method used to discuss the topic of the study. This chapter consists of the type of research, data collection, data processing and data analysis. The following discussion explains the research method more complete.

3.1 The Type of Research

This research uses qualitative research since the data are in the form of sentences or word. Qualitative method concerns with collecting and analyzing information in as many forms, chiefly non-numeric as possible (see Blaxter, 2006: 60). Data related to the topic of the main object matter are taken from poem as the prominent source data, dictionary, theoretical books which belongs to the theory used in this research. And also, some data in this research come from many other sources, such as some journal, articles and taken from the internet. Hence, I apply the qualitative research method in writing this research to analyze the data related to the Existentialism in *Bohemian Rhapsody* lyrics by Mercury Mercury.

3.2 Data Collection

Through library research I collect all the data; it means I apply the documentary method. Blaxter, state that documents are a method in collecting data by using written materials as a basis for the research (Blaxter, 2006: 154). Besides, Blaxter explains —researchers are expected to read, understand and critically analyze the writings others, whether fellow researchers, practitioners or policymaker (Blaxter , 2006: 167). In other word, I do close reading to primary and secondary data in collecting data by its documents. In this research, I collect the primary data (material object) from Mercury’s lyric in *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Meanwhile, the secondary data (formal object) are facts and information about existentialism. Another formal object used in this research are representation theory. Another source related to representation theory and existentialism concept by Sartre from internet resources, literary work reviews, and journals, also used to support this analysis.

3.3 Data Processing and Analysis

This research aims to revealing the Existentialism in the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Blaxter says that interpretation is the way to understand and contextualize the results of your analyses (in Blaxter, 2006: 19). It is the process by which researchers put his own meaning on the data he has collected and analyzed. It is free for the researchers to convey their arguments or point of view. There are several steps in writing this research. They are doing close reading, categorizing, classifying, and analyzing.

The first step is reading the lyric as the primary data (material object) in order to get more understanding and trying to understand every single detail in it. This way is a very basic step to find the issues inside the lyric to be discussed. By reading this lyric, the discourse understanding of the lyric can be gained so that the assumption and the issue related to existentialism are more specific. The next step of reading activity is to read the theoretical books, articles or web sources related to the Existentialism issue in *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Freddie Mercury. Next is reading theoretical book related to the representation theory to reveal the existentialism issue in *Bohemian Rhapsody*. It is also used to find the ideological interest of Mercury in writing *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

After highlighting and collecting the data, the next step is categorizing and classifying. In this step, suitable theory that used to reveal the existentialism is representation theory. In those theory, discursive way by Foucault selected to find the knowledge and meaning. Then, the lyric will be categorized and classified in three shift intention of discursive way which are discourse produce knowledge, power and knowledge and question of subject.

Then, the next step is analyzing the material object by using formal objects which need a deep understanding of each theory that use to analyze the lyrics. It aims to answer all of the research questions and is also important to limit the sphere of the research in order to get the expected goal. Background knowledge will also be used to be the formal objects that can be used as the proofs and clues in answering the research questions such as culture, religion, etc.

First analysis refers to Foucault shift intention which is discourse produce knowledge. In analysing the discourse of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, each part of the lyric will be categorized according to poetry genre. This step will support and directs to find the discourse. Then the discourse will be reviewed or reframing to reveal knowledge. Then knowledge of each part of the lyric will be connected each other to make a story line. In reframing *Bohemian Rhapsody* lyric, I will put my own understanding to analyse the discourse in each parts of the lyric. Then, how Mercury processes and constructs the language to make a discourse which has connected with existential issues will be seen. Knowledge from each discourse will be connected with which existential issues that appear in *Bohemian Rhapsody* lyric. This way is used to answer the first research question.

Power and knowledge and question of subject used to answer second research question. Power and knowledge shift intention will be applicated by searching contextual background of Mercury. Contextual background will be analyzed deeply such as what happen to him on that time, his social background, his journey in life and etc. Then, what happen around Mercury, what Mercury sees in the world and some event in the world which be noticed by Mercury on that time also will be analyzed such as world situation, ideology development and situation, religion movement and action and etc. Then question of subject is produce the subject from discourse and tries to find place for the subject. This part used to find who is the main character and his position in that time. Knowledge will be constructed and lead us to find out the message behind the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

The final step is drawing a conclusion. The conclusion of this research is the result of the process of analysis and interpretation of the data collection. I hope that this research can be used as a reference for the next researchers. Shortly, the conclusion is the brief writer's assumption through the analysis based on theoretical framework.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the critical discussion in the previous chapter, the analysis of existentialism in the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody* becomes the main means in Mercury's view about GOD and Human. By constructing uncommon poetry, Mercury inserts Existentialism ideology in his ideological in the lyric of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The "I" figure as the main character is Mercury itself. From the explanation in chapter 4, Mercury's ideological through existentialism talks about fear and scare about GOD action. Even Mercury constructs objecting words on "Mama, just killed a man". According to the explanation of "Bismillah" and "Galileo", that sentence refers to the application of GOD power to categorizing human, controlling human live and locking up human freedom of thought in the process to create his essence. In the explanation of "Bismillah" and the history of "jabariyah" theology, the understanding of GOD power used in politic way.

Verse 4 is the climax of Mercury's action in his view about GOD and Human. In that verse, Mercury speaks directly to someone and refers to GOD, religious authority or religious doctrine. In *Bohemian Rhapsody*, someone in verse 4 refers to "silhouetto of a man" that also refers to a man who had been killed by Mama by his objecting. In other words, in this case, "a man" is GOD henchmen in religion. In the lyric, Mercury explains his anxiety about religion authority who take control and apply religion doctrine by rejecting freedom of thought of each human and assume that he is the most righteous. in some condition, religion authority use religion as politic tool to strengthen his position as in the story of Galileo and Umayyah and Muawiyah.

In the lyric interpretation of *Bohemian Rhapsody* GOD represent in religion doctrine and the interpretation of holly book. Both, are applicated and controlled by religion authority. Here is the intereset of Mercury's ideological through existentialism view. In this lyric, Mercury follows the view of Existentialism by Sartre in the rejection of GOD present in human life. Mercury becomes Existentialist because he saw few phenomena that scare and coercion caused by GOD present. That is why he prefer to be Existentialist In the lyric of *Bohemian*

Rhapsody. Mercury indirectly criticize religion authority and also some humans who abusing the nature of GOD, Religion doctrine and their position as the implementers and watchman of GOD commandment to get something that they want such as power and authority. In fact, human itself is who make some ugliness, unfair policy, violence and even war on behalf of GOD and religion. After long explanation, “*Mama, just killed a man*” is a sentence of criticism. Mercury criticizes and rejects someone who use GOD and religion as the reason of their actions. If the sentence of “*Mama, just killed a man*” be reversed, it will be “a man, just killed mama”. It means that human who kills GOD, religion and holly books through his actions, policy and also his thoughts that does not reflect GOD nature. In fact, GOD creates love and religion as the symbol of peace. But, there are still someone who abusing GOD and use GOD as the reason of their action.

In chapter 4.2, Mercury’s critical position is explored and explained briefly. As Zaraustra, Mercury impliedly tries to warn people and government about the development of Wahhabism in Britain by putting two words code, *Bismillah* and Galileo. By related that two word and also Mercury’s history religion, one phenomenon on that time is revealed as the power that made Mercury developed the lyric. As musician, this is the way of Mercury to share his idea and critic. In the beginning of development of the lyric, Mercury has an idea to use “Prophets Song” as the tittle, but finally, “Bohemian Rhapsody” seemed the one.

By revealing the existentialism in the lyric of Freddie Mercury’s *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the reason and ideological interest of Mercury finally seen. The reason why he became as an existentialist and use existentialism view is because he wants to criticize and delivers his view about Human and GOD according to the world phenomena that is the development of Wahhabism in Britain.

For closing conclusion, there is quote from Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955) that relate with the phenomena in Freddie Mercury's *Bohemian Rhapsody* about GOD and Human.

“Does cold exist?

In fact, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physic, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat

Does darkness exist?

Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness.

Evil does not exist. It is just like darkness and cold. God did not create evil.

Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart”

(in anonymous, 2018)

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