

EXISTENTIALISM SEEN THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE WINSTON GROOM'S *FORREST GUMP*

Eltico Amazia Putra

Fakultas Sastra Universitas Sanata Dharma, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

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This research discussed how existentialism is seen through the main character in Winston Groom's *Forrest Gump*. This research has two problems formulation. First is to describe the characteristics of the main character in Winston Groom's *Forrest Gump* that become the main focus of this research. The second is to show the characteristics of existentialism, based on Sartre's theory about existentialism, through the characteristics of the main character in the Winston Groom's *Forrest Gump*. This research aimed to find out the characteristics of existentialism, focusing on individual actions and choices.

The object of this research is the novel *Forrest Gump* by Winston Groom. Winston Groom wrote the novel in 1986. His novel *Forrest Gump* was later turned into a 1994 movie with the same name, *Forrest Gump*, which was directed by Robert Zemeckis.

The researcher used a moral-philosophy approach for this study. The research used a descriptive qualitative method. The data collected was in the form of Sartre's book on existentialism which was based on his speech, *Existentialism is Humanism* when he was in Paris on October 29, 1945. The data is used to analyze the second problem formulation, namely to show several characteristics of existentialism seen in the main character in Winston Groom's *Forrest Gump*.

The researcher found that the characteristics of the main character of the novel are helpful, strong, caring, tolerant, brave, hard worker, and clever. The researcher found that there were three characteristics of existentialism in the novel, including subjectivity, the characteristic of making decisions based on one's own personal impressions, feelings, and opinions; conscious, the characteristic that human has in order to bear some responsibility for their existence; humanity, the characteristic that makes human able to choose and determine one's attitude from among the many possible alternatives. The researcher concluded that it needs willpower to determine the course of life. This will form an individual to exist, because a man can freely and willingly choose his or her own life.

Keywords: *existentialism, main character, Forrest Gump*

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Penelitian ini membahas tentang bagaimana eksistensialisme yang terlihat melalui tokoh utama dalam novel *Forrest Gump* karya Winston Groom. Penelitian ini mempunyai dua rumusan masalah. Pertama, mendeskripsikan karakteristik tokoh utama dalam novel *Forrest Gump* karya Winston Groom yang menjadi fokus utama penelitian ini. Kedua, menunjukkan ciri-ciri eksistensialisme berdasarkan teori Sartre tentang eksistensialisme melalui ciri-ciri tokoh utama dalam novel *Forrest Gump* karya Winston Groom. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui ciri-ciri eksistensialisme yang berfokus pada individu dalam bertindak dan memilih.

Objek penelitian ini adalah novel *Forrest Gump* karya Winston Groom. Winston Groom menulis novel tersebut pada tahun 1986. Novelnya *Forrest Gump* kemudian diangkat menjadi film tahun 1994 dengan judul yang sama, *Forrest Gump*, yang disutradarai oleh Robert Zemeckis.

Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan moral-filosofi pada penelitian ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data yang dikumpulkan berupa buku Sartre tentang eksistensialisme yang didasarkan pada pidatonya, Eksistensialisme adalah Humanisme ketika ia berada di Paris pada tanggal 29 Oktober 1945. Data tersebut digunakan untuk menganalisis rumusan masalah yang kedua, yaitu menunjukkan beberapa ciri-ciri eksistensialisme yang terlihat pada tokoh utama dalam novel *Forrest Gump* milik Winston Groom.

Peneliti menemukan bahwa ciri-ciri tokoh utama novel tersebut adalah suka menolong, kuat, peduli, toleran, pemberani, pekerja keras, dan pandai. Peneliti menemukan bahwa terdapat tiga ciri eksistensialisme dalam novel, antara lain subjektivitas, sifat pengambilan keputusan berdasarkan kesan, perasaan, dan pendapat pribadi; sadar, sifat yang dimiliki manusia untuk memikul tanggung jawab atas keberadaannya; kemanusiaan, sifat yang membuat manusia mampu memilih dan menentukan sikapnya dari sekian banyak alternatif yang ada. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa dibutuhkan kemauan keras untuk menentukan jalan hidup. Hal ini akan membentuk individu untuk eksis, karena manusia dapat dengan bebas dan rela memilih hidupnya sendiri.

Kata kunci: *existentialism, main character, Forrest Gump.*