

**TEACHING INDEPENDENCE TO A BLIND, MUTE AND DEAF
STUDENT AS A MEANINGFUL CHOICE OF LIFE REFLECTED IN
WILLIAM GIBSON'S DRAMA SCRIPT *THE MIRACLE WORKER* (1959)
AN EXISTENTIALIST PERSPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Fulfilment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree
of Education in English Department**

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2023**

APPROVAL

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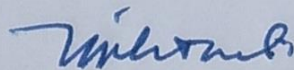
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ACCEPTANCE

TEACHING INDEPENDENCE TO BLIND, DEAF, AND MUTE STUDENT
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RESEARCH PAPER

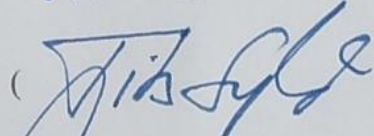
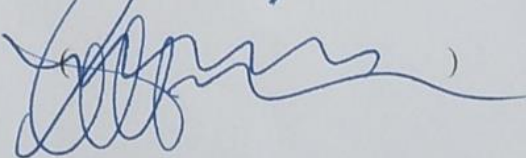
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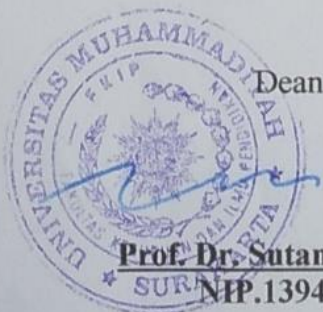
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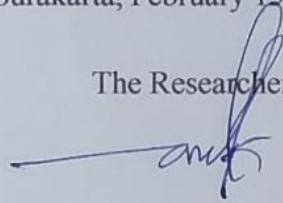
TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify that in this research paper there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree of university, nor there are options or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing was referred to manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and bibliography.

If any correction is proven in the future dealing with my statement above, I will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, February 15th, 2023

The Researcher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'andri', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

ANDRI HERMAWAN
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Abstract

Researcher wants to make research about teaching independence to blind, deaf, and mute students. William Gibson is one of the famous drama scriptwriters who wrote *The Miracle Worker* (1959) the study is based on Gibson's treatment of the story of Helen Keller's education. For students at the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who have an interest in studying literature, this study can be used as references to enrich knowledge and improve the understanding of the theory of literature, especially the existentialist perspective. For all the readers, by doing this research, the researcher hopes it can develop the readers' appreciation of literature. Besides that, this research should be an inspiration for the next researcher who has an interest in examining *The Miracle Worker* drama script by William Gibson. Moreover, this research can be a source reference for the next research will analyze literature by using existentialist perspective. For the educator, especially for literature educators, the research is willing that this research can be source material for teaching and learning literature both from the secondary level, even higher level.

Keywords: teaching independence, mute, blind, deaf, sign language, Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller, water

Abstrak

Peneliti ingin membuat penelitian tentang kemandirian belajar pada siswa tunanetra, tuli, dan bisu. William Gibson adalah salah satu penulis naskah drama terkenal yang menulis *The Miracle Worker* (1959) kajiannya didasarkan pada perlakuan Gibson terhadap kisah pendidikan Helen Keller. dapat dijadikan referensi untuk memperkaya pengetahuan dan meningkatkan pemahaman teori sastra, khususnya perspektif eksistensialis. Bagi pembaca sekalian, dengan dilakukannya penelitian ini, peneliti berharap dapat mengembangkan apresiasi pembaca terhadap sastra. Selain itu, makalah ini Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menjadi inspirasi bagi peneliti selanjutnya yang berminat untuk meneliti naskah drama *The Miracle Worker* karya William Gibson. Selain itu, penelitian ini dapat menjadi sumber referensi untuk penelitian selanjutnya yang akan menganalisis literatur dengan menggunakan perspektif eksistensialis. Bagi para pendidik khususnya para pendidik sastra, penelitian ini berkeinginan agar penelitian ini dapat menjadi sumber bahan belajar mengajar sastra baik dari tingkat menengah, bahkan tingkat yang lebih tinggi.

Kata kunci: mengajar kemandirian, bisu, buta, tuli, bahasa isyarat, Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller, air

1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter is about the introduction of the research. It consists of the Background of the study, problem Statement, Objectives of Study, Limitation of the study, Significant of the study, and Paper Organization.

At the moment there are so many Indonesians wanted to be a teacher, but the bad news is they are just wanting a high salary from an easy job, whereas the essence of being a teacher is as an educator that has the responsibility to educate our students even though our students are difficult to teach. Choice of life for teaching is not only for teachers but bur also for play drama scriptwriters such as William Gibson.

Here the researcher wants to make research about teaching independence specially to teach blind, deaf, and mute students and one of the most suitable objects is *The Miracle Worker* drama script. There are many characters in *The Miracle Worker* drama script, such as Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller, Mary, Martha, Aunt Ev, James Keller, Anagnos, Doctor, Percy, John, Kate Keller, Viney, Captain Keller, and five children. But in this research, the researcher only focuses on Annie Sullivan's character that reflects the teaching independence.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter will be discussed the method that the researcher may apply to analyze the drama script. It is divided into 6 subchapters. Those are Type of Study, Time and Place, Type of Data and Data Source, Method and Technique of Collecting Data, Data Validity, and Technique of Analyzing Data.

A. Type of The Study

In analyzing *The Miracle Worker* drama script, the researcher uses qualitative research, statistic is not necessary to examine and explore the facts. Thus, any calculation and numeration were not be

required in this research type of research. It also included library research in which data sources need literary data. Library research is research that needs a collection of information sources and similar sources that could be found in the library and it is accessible to a defined society for following or reference. The steps in conducting the research are as follows 1) determining the type of the study, 2) determining time and place, 3) determining data and data source, 4) determining method and technique of data collection, and last 5) determining the technique of data analysis.

1. Time and Place

This research belongs to literary study and library research so that there is no limitation toward time and place. The researcher may take the data at any time and any place.

2. Type of Data and Data Source

Due to the researcher's goal to analyze the fiction (drama script), the type of data is the text that contains in paragraph or discourse. The researcher's father the data from data sources, namely primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is fathered from *The Miracle Worker* drama script by William Gibson. Then, the secondary data is fathered from previous studies and other resources related to the object of the research. It may be movie scripts, books, journals, the internet, etc.

3. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

This proposed research would apply literary research and comprehension techniques as the method. Library research is used to gather information and related sources. Comprehension is used for gathering data. And then researcher uses note-taking to complete the data in collecting data. The steps for collecting the data follow:

- a. First, the researcher reads the drama script *The Miracle Worker* repeatedly for gathering the data and observes the data as the primary data source.
- b. Then, the researcher takes some notes related to the issue that will be discussed in the research.
- c. Browsing to the internet to get information and articles related to the objects of the study and reading some related books to find out the theories, data, and information that are required as the secondary data sources.
- d. Identify the problem and find the data. Therefore, the research's problem statement and objective of the study could be drawn clearly.
- e. Take some notes of important information in both primary and secondary data
- f. The last is the researcher would analyze the data by using the existentialist approach.
- i. Data Validity

The use of validity is usually found in qualitative research and now it is reconsidered also in qualitative research. The concept of validity is delineated by a wide range of terms in qualitative research. Validity is used to prove that the data is trustworthy. Every research should have validity in its data.

According to Goetz and Le Compe 1982:32, Validity in research is concerned with the accuracy and truthfulness of finding. Qualitative validity means that the researcher should check for the accuracy of the findings by employing certain procedures (Jhon Creswell, 2009)

Based on Goetz and Le Comple (1982:32) stated that validity in a qualitative study is focused on the accuracy and truthfulness of scientific findings. In this research, the researcher uses triangulation

to make the trustworthiness of the data. Based on Denzin in *An Introduction to Triangulation* (2010:14-16) there are four types of triangulations, they are Data Triangulation, Investigator triangulation, Theory Triangulation, and Method Triangulation.

- 1) Data Triangulation (the use of various data sources, for example, time, space, and person)
- 2) Investigator triangulation (the use of more than one observer, investigator, researcher, or data analyst)
- 3) Theory triangulation (the use of multiple hypotheses or theories)
- 4) Methods triangulation (the use of multiple methods to research a situation or phenomenon).

According to the explanation above, the researcher uses investigator triangulation as the type of triangulation which will be applied and appropriate with this study. The researcher does crosscheck the data with his consultant to make sure the data is valid.

4. The technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis is document analysis. For analyzing the data, the researcher used content analysis by using an existentialist perspective. Document analysis is applied to analyze the document that used in this research. Based on Creswell (2007) there are some steps to analyze the data, such as:

- a. Organizing and preparing the data for analysis. It is the first step for analyzing the data. In this step, we could be reviewing the material, typing up field notes, or breaking down and classifying the data into different types. It depends on the source of the information.
- b. Read through all of the data. It increases a piece of common information and reflects on its overall meaning.

- c. Start detailed analysis with a coding process. This step is to classify and differentiate the data based on the type or categories.
- d. Use the coding process to generate a description of the setting or people as well as categories or themes to analyze. In this step, description is giving detailed information about places, people, or events in a setting.
- e. Advance how the description and themes are represented in the qualitative narrative.
- f. Interpret the data using the existentialism approach.

3. THE RESULT OF RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

1. Factors that are Contribute Annie Sullivan chose teaching as her choice of life

Based on the underlying theory and match with the story, the researcher found that some factors contribute to Annie Sullivan to choose teaching as her choice of life. As follows:

a. Atoning Her Guilty to Her Brother

The way Annie Sullivan looks at Helen Keller, she remembers his promise to his little brother, Jimmie Sullivan. Annie Sullivan and her little brother, Jimmie Sullivan grew up in the state asylum at Tewksbury, Massachusetts, where conditions were notoriously harsh. Annie and Jimmie were sent together when their mother died from tuberculosis and their father abandoned the family. Jimmie Sullivan, who suffered from a tubercular hip, was terrified of being separated from Annie, so she dressed him as a girl and kept him with her on the women's ward for a time, promising to take care of him forever and ever. But Jimmie was finally taken away from his sister, however, and eventually died.

Even though Annie was only nine years old and virtually blind at the time, Annie Sullivan blames herself for not being able to keep her promise to take care of her little brother. The memory of Jimmie's death haunts her to adulthood. Even though she has been told that the battle is dead and done with, Annie Sullivan cannot let it stay buried. She feels that God should owe her resurrection and that she has a debt to Jimmie as well. There is the sense at the end of the play that in

reaching Helen, Annie Sullivan was found the resurrection she seeks and that she will be able to love and care for Helen Keller in a way that she was not able to do for her brother.

b. She wanted to assist Helen Keller to get the education

Annie Sullivan was lost much of her sight due to a trachoma disease contracted as a child due to poor living conditions in the 1870s. When Annie Sullivan was five years old, she contracted a bacterial eye disease known as *trachoma*. Trachoma is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. This infection causes a roughening can led to pain in the eyes, breakdown of the outer surface or cornea of the eyes, and eventual blindness. And she knows how they feel become a blind kid, like what Helen feel.

Annie Sullivan wanted to help Helen Keller to make an association between the word and physical objects since actually, she wanted to bring education to everyone even a blind, mute, deaf student such as Helen Keller.

2. Depiction of Teaching Independence as Meaningful Choice of Life

In *The Miracle Worker* drama script, there are a sufferer character, pessimist character, and an optimist character. The sufferer character is Helen Keller, the pessimist character is Captain Arthur Keller, and the optimist character is Annie Sullivan and Helen's mother, Kate Adams Keller.

The researcher finds out that the depiction of teaching independence as meaningful life of *The Miracle Worker* drama script is through the character or characterization, style, and plot or creating events. The analysis of the depiction seeking a meaningful choice of life in the drama script is as follows:

a. Through the Character or Characterization

Character or characterization is the character presentation and creation of image or idea of the characters depicted in the drama script, as follows:

1) Sufferer Character

Helen Keller is one of the two major characters of the drama script. In real life she was one of the American's most famous people of her time, despite being blind, deaf, and mute,

she learned how to communicate, and later become a political activist and a famous author. In *The Miracle Worker* drama script, which was written by William Gibson Helen is a young child who could not communicate with anyone until the very end of the drama play. Helen is unruly and wild because nobody has ever been able to communicate with her, she does not know how to behave and often does not seem to know that she is misbehaving. Helen is a smart young child, she is endlessly curious about the world, as evidenced by the fact that she is always moving around the room, trying to know about new objects and people in her environment. And yet, she struggles to learn not only because she is deaf, mute, and blind, but also because her family spoils her, giving her no real motivation to change her behavior. With the help of Annie Sullivan as her teacher, Helen learns how sign language is used to talk and learn. Although she utters only one word at the end “wah-wah” (i.e., water), Helen Keller’s energy and animal-like physicality give readers a window into her personality, she is a clever, curious child, who always wants to know everything there is to know about the world.

2) Pessimist Character

Captain Arthur Keller is Helen Keller’s father, he is the gruff, middle-aged patriarch of the Keller family. Captain Keller is frequently confused about what is going on and seems much less sensitive to the needs of the rest of his family than his wife, Kate Keller. In many ways, Arthur Keller seems to be modeled off the archetypal father figure such as stubborn, proud, and stoic. Arthur Keller is stern but well-meaning, though he does not take an active role in caring for his kids, and is highly skeptical of the teaching methods of Annie Sullivan. Additionally, Captain Keller is shown to be alienated from his son, James Keller, Captain Keller expresses disappointment in his son and does not understand why James has such a hard time obeying his orders. James and Arthur Keller seem not to know how to talk to one another about their feelings. By the drama play is the end. However, Captain Keller seems to have overcome his prejudice against Annie Sullivan the ‘Yankee’ as he allows her to employ her strict methods. Arthur also shows new respect for James, suggesting that he will do a better job of communicating with his son from now on.

3) Optimist Character

Optimist character is the type of character who appears in the story which believes that Helen Keller is a smart kid and she will be able to learn and communicate with other people. The researcher found two optimist characters in this drama play script, as follows:

a) Annie Sullivan

Annie Sullivan is the ‘miracle worker’ of the drama play’s title, and the drama play’s protagonist. Several of the Kellers call Annie ‘Yankee’ because she comes from Massachusetts. Annie grew up as a blind in a squalid almshouse with her younger brother, James Sullivan. James, also usually called Jimmie died at the almshouse, and Annie Sullivan appears to feel personally responsible for the death of her beloved little brother, James Sullivan. Later, Annie attended the Perkins Institute for the Blind, where she learned how to read, write, and use sign language, and eventually received surgery to help her regain her sight. Annie seems to be attracted to teaching, not only because she is benefitted from education personally, but also because she continues to feel guilty for his little brother’s death. In a way, taking care of children is her way of atoning for having ‘abandoned’ Jimmie as a child. Annie Sullivan tries to teach Helen Keller how to communicate by introducing her to sign language. Annie Sullivan is shown to be a highly capable teacher, not so much because she is a genius, but because she is persistent and has a personal stake in helping her pupils succeed, she has chosen teaching as her meaningful choice of life. In the end, Annie Sullivan succeeds in teaching Helen Keller the concept of meaning that is the relationship between words in sign language and the things they represent. In doing so, it is implied, Annie Sullivan, not only triumphs where many other doctors have failed, but she also comes to terms with her traumatic past.

b) Kate Adams Keller

Kate Adams Keller is the mother of Helen Keller and the second, considerably younger wife of Captain Arthur Keller. Kate Keller is a kind and loving woman. She is a loyal mother to Helen Keller, she tries, again and again, to teach

Helen to talk and communicate. She convinces her husband, Arthur Keller to hire some of the finest doctors in the country and she is instrumental in reaching out to Annie Sullivan, the teacher who ultimately teaches Helen Keller to use sign language. And yet something is constraining and stifling about Kate Keller's relationship with her daughter. She loves Helen so much, but she also babies Helen too much, to the point where Helen has no motivation to learn to communicate, Kate always gives Helen candy and attention no matter what she had done. At the end of the drama play it is Annie Sullivan, not Kate Keller who embraces Helen, perhaps signaling that while Kate is Helen's loving mother, it is Annie Sullivan who has become the true maternal presence in Helen Keller's life. Teaching Helen using the method she usually uses, then Annie was successful and Helen could spell any words and understand any meaning.

b. Through the Style

Style is the physical structure of literary work because the language appears when it was read by the readers.

William Gibson depicted the rationality of his characters through his style which seems simple but sometimes verbose as the classic work in general. Gibson uses *figurative language* and *diction* in depicting teacher as a meaningful choice of life, as follows:

1) Figurative Language

Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation such as similes, metaphors, hyperbole, personification, and symbol. The figurative language aims to make the characters and storylines come alive in the reader's mind. There are some figurative languages used by William Gibson, as follows:

2) Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that, for rhetorical effect, directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. It may provide clarity or identify hidden similarities between two ideas. In *The Miracle Worker* drama script, it is depicted in the part the way Mr. Anagnos says "but that battle is dead and done with" which the battle means internal conflict.

3) Personification

Personification is an anthropomorphic metaphor in which an abstraction or a thing is represented as a person. It shows in Annie's dialogue "Her hands ache to speak out", she says as if Helen's hands could talk.

Personification figurative language also showed in Mr. Anagnos's dialogue "Why not let it stay buried?".

4) Hyperbole

Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration as a rhetorical figure or device of speech. In rhetoric, hyperbole is also sometimes known as auxesis. As a figure of language hyperbole is usually not meant to be taken literally. William Gibson also uses Hyperbole figure in this drama script in Kate's dialogue "I might as well try to work in a hen yard as in this house", "Some way of teaching her an iota of discipline has to be", Annie's dialogue "But don't be surprised if I get out to push the horse!" and "the man who sold me the ticket ought to be tied to the tracks".

5) Alliteration

In literature, alliteration is the conspicuous repetition of identical initial consonant sounds in closely associated or successive syllables within a group of words, even those spelled differently. As a method of linking for effect, alliteration is also called initial rhyme or head rhyme. This showed in a narration part "and paws his papers to the floor", Annie's dialogue "the man who sold me the ticket ought to be tied to the tracks", and Captain's dialogue "The house is at six and seven".

6) Simile

The simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things interestingly. The object of a simile is to spark an interesting connection in a reader's mind. A simile is one of the most common figurative languages. In this drama script William Gibson write simile in "still in the bonnet and smoked glasses like a caricature of herself, and addresses her humorously", Arthur's dialogue "view women as the flower of civilization", and Annie's dialogue "she's a bright little monkey".

7) Idiom

The idiom is a phrase, word, or expression that has a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. Idiom's meaning is different from the literal meaning of the

idiom's elements. In other words, idiom does not mean exactly what the words say. In *The Miracle Worker* drama script, it is depicted in the part the way Captain Keller's says "The house is at six and seven", "I've been cooling my heels for an hour", Annie's dialogue "doesn't just lose heart just because I'm not on my last legs".

c. Symbolism

The symbol is a literary device that contains several layers of meaning, often concealed at first sight, and the symbol is representative of several other aspects, concepts, or traits than those that are visible in the literal translation alone. The symbol is using an action or object that means something more than its literal meaning.

There is also symbolism in the drama play script. William Gibson included it as a representation and also to give a special meaning to the objects. It could be seen in the drama script, as follows:

1) Water

Water is one of the most overt symbols in *The Miracle Worker*. Water is the cornerstone of the drama play's most famous scene, and one of the most famous scenes in American theater in which Annie Sullivan pumps water on Helen Keller's hands to teach her how to communicate using sign language. This scene and water as it functions in the play more generally have a strong religious undertone. In Christianity, water is a symbol of life and beginning as baptism. It is apt that water is what inspires Helen to finally understand how to communicate with the external world because in doing so it is as if she has been born anew, baptized in the waters of truth and knowledge. In this way, water symbolizes the miracle of Helen Keller's rebirth.

2) Key and Lock

The other important symbol in *The Miracle Worker* drama script is the key. Throughout the drama play, various references are made to keys, keyholes, and locked doors. Often, it evokes the way Helen Keller's mind works. Annie Sullivan sees Helen as a bright young child who is nonetheless barred from learning about the world by her blindness and deafness. Annie Sullivan aims to 'unlock' Helen's potential by teaching her how to communicate through sign language. Therefore, it is

wholly appropriate that, just after learning to communicate, Helen Keller presents Annie with the key to the house. Thanks to her teacher, Helen Keller's mind is now 'unlocked', completely open to the wonders of the world.

3) Smoked Glasses

Before Annie leaves her school to go to Keller's home, her blind students give her a present, which is a pair of smoked glasses. Annie Sullivan uses these glasses to protect her eyes, which are still weak after her operation and sensitive to bright lights. Setting aside their practical value, the smoked glasses are an important symbol of Annie's past. Those glasses remind the audience that Annie herself has struggled with blindness, and knows first-hand to a limited extent what Helen is going through. In a way, the smoked glasses establish that Annie Sullivan is a character with a foot in both worlds, she is an educated woman who has learned how to 'see', both literally and metaphorically, and yet Annie can remember a time when she was blind and cut off from the world, just like Helen Keller.

4) Dolls

There are several dolls in *The Miracle worker* drama script, including the doll that Annie Sullivan brings with her to Keller's home and the doll Aunt Ev makes for Helen. Throughout the drama play, dolls symbolize education. As a little girl, Annie first learned how to communicate by interacting with a doll, and during her time with Helen She trains Helen to behave by showing her how to take care of a doll. Doll plays an important role in education because dolls give people like Helen an opportunity to practice new skills and types of behavior.

5) Sight and Blindness

As one might expect, *The Miracle* drama script is laden with symbols relating to sight and blindness. At one point, Annie makes this symbolism explicit by nothing. "Language is to the mind more than light is to eye". In this way, the drama play suggests that there are different kinds of 'sight' both literal and metaphorical. Helen is blind, but more importantly, her blindness and deafness have made her ignorant of the world at large. Helen knows nothing about the language, and therefore nothing of society. She is a wild kid, who spends her days rolling around on the floor next to the family dog. This certainly does not mean that William Gibson is condemning blindness or

blind people, but he does use Helen's blindness as a metaphor for other types of ignorance. Helen Keller overcomes her debilitating condition by learning to 'see', in the sense that she learns how to communicate through sign language, which in turn enables her to learn about the world.

d. Through the Plot/Creating Event

The plot is the series of events that accurately brings the reader to actuate the story through the conflict into climax and resolution.

In *The Miracle Worker* drama play script contained some events which explain that Annie Sullivan as the major character choose teaching as a meaningful choice of her life, as follows:

1) Baby Helen Lost Sight and Hearing

One and a half-year-old Helen Adams Keller is sick with acute congestion and a high fever. Helen makes it the ordeal, but after the doctor leaves her parents, Captain Keller and Kate Keller are horrified to discover that the illness left Helen deaf and blind.

2) Annie Asked to be Helen's Governess

When Helen is about six years old Keller's family is unable to find any doctor, teacher, or quack who can do something to help Helen. The undisciplined, groping curious girl is left to her own devices, grabbing toys from other kids, knocking papers off desks, and eating off other people's plates. When Helen overturns the cradle, tumbling the baby, Mildred onto the floor, Captain Keller agrees to write to yet another rumored specialist in the hope that someone might be able to train Helen.

Captain Keller's letter eventually finds its way to Boston and the Perkins Institute for the Blind, where a governess is found for Helen. Annie Sullivan, twenty years old young lady who just completed her education at Perkins. Annie was an abandoned child, left to care for her sickly little brother, Jimmie who died in the state almshouse. Now, Annie is being sent to try to teach Helen after Annie's nine eye operations and a turbulent education. Mr. Anagnos, headmaster of Perkins Institute for the Blind warns her not to expect miracles.

3) Isolated in A Garden House

In a garden house behind the family dwelling, Annie Sullivan succeeds in calming Helen Keller somewhat and teaches her a ‘finger game’, spelling words into Helen’s palm, even though Helen does not understand that the words correspond to things in the world outside her. Helen’s family is satisfied with the progress, but Annie insists that Helen is capable of more, that she cannot be fully human until she understands the connection between words and things and begins using language.

4) Back to the Old Environment

At the end of the two weeks isolated from her family, the wild beast that was Helen Keller seems to be tamed. Annie Sullivan spells thousands of words into her hand. Helen Keller learns eighteen nouns and three verbs. It is all just a finger game; however, she does not connect the fingerspelling to the concept of language. Annie Sullivan begs for more time but is denied, even though the Keller family is overwhelmed with what she accomplished. Keller’s family sits down to eat a celebratory meal, but back in her old environment, Helen immediately tries to revert to her undisciplined ways.

5) Helen Could Communicate

In an emotional last scene, Helen regresses at the dinner table and empties a pitcher of water on Annie, her teacher. When Annie forces Helen to refill the pitcher from a pump in the backyard, the miracle occurs, Helen feels the water cascading over her hand, feels Annie spelling the word into her palm, and says “wah-wah” (i.e., water). In some minutes Helen is clambering around the backyard, she understands that things have names. Finally, she spells “teacher” and identifies the word with Annie. As the drama play ends, Annie embraces Helen and whispers a sentence that she will eventually be able to spell into Helen Keller’s palm “I, love, Helen, forever, and ever”.

e. Through the Setting

The Miracle Worker is set in the late 1880s, after the Civil War, just after the Reconstruction, a period in the South that was full of chaos and change. Southerners like Captain Arthur Keller would harbor deep resentments toward the North. The setting is significant to *The Miracle Worker* story because Captain Keller does not accept

Annie Sullivan as his kid's teacher because she is from the North. It was a very sensitive issue for men of the South, like Captain Keller to accept the presence of a Yankee in his house.

The main place setting of *The Miracle Worker* drama play is the Keller's home in Tuscumbia, Alabama, the USA when Helen is six years old and Annie Sullivan comes to tutor Helen, much against her father, Captain Keller, and her brother, James's better judgment. Everything takes place here, most of it during a short space of time, although the beginning of the drama play provides the context. It reveals that Helen Keller was ill as a baby and is now blind, deaf and mute with no means of communication and only her family's pity. Consequently, Helen is unmanageable, and according to her brother, belongs in an asylum, as her father puts it 'mental defectives'. There is a garden house behind the family dwelling, Annie Sullivan succeeds in calming Helen Keller somewhat and teaches her a 'finger game', spelling words into Helen's palm, even though Helen does not understand that the words correspond to things in the world outside her. And here the miracle begins. Helen's family is satisfied with the progress, but Annie insists that Helen is capable of more, that she cannot be fully human until she understands the connection between words and things and begins using language.

f. Through the Theme

The Miracle Worker is the story of how one person can enter the lives of others and change them forever. During the play, Annie Sullivan enters the Keller household, and through her work to teach language to Helen Keller, a blind, mute, and deaf child end up changing all of the characters' perceptions of the world, as well as changing her worldview. By the end of the drama play the 'miracle' that Annie works, teaching Helen language has a direct effect on everyone's life and how they live it.

3. The Reason Why Meaningful Life Specially Addressed by The Author in The Miracle Worker

a. Prejudice and Fear in the United States of America during the 1880s and 1950s

The *Miracle Worker* drama play was written in the United States during the late 1950s, which was the beginning of a period of

change in American society. America had just witnessed the paranoia of the McCarthy hearings, during which many theatre artists were charged with participating in un-American activities or simply accused of being Communist. The mid to late 1950s also witnessed the beginning of the civil rights movement in the southern United States, including in Alabama, where *The Miracle* drama play is set. In the United States' theatre, the crumbling facade of the American dream in the plays of Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller had been seen by the audiences. All of these aspects are a part of *The Miracle Worker* drama play in its form, origin, and focus.

Although the subject of *The Miracle Worker* drama play is not the paranoia of possible Communist invasion or the civil rights of African Americans in the 1950s, both of these factors into an underlying theme of the drama play, prejudice, and fear. In the drama play, the prejudice and fear that come from misunderstanding are brought to light. The most obvious example of this is how Arthur Keller treats his daughter. They use Helen Keller's handicap as a reason to treat her with pity and for their reluctance to discipline her. Arthur Keller's fear and ignorance of Helen's condition cause them to underestimate Helen's intelligence and allow them to treat her like an animal.

Prejudice was also clearly presented in the relationships that Captain Arthur Keller has with Annie Sullivan and Viney. *The Miracle Worker* drama script was set in the south of the United States of America in the 1880s, shortly after the reconstruction following the Civil War. During that period, the South resented the North's methods and ideas, especially those focusing on the treatment and rights of former slaves. This view was dramatized in the drama play with the relationship Captain Arthur Keller has with Viney, he was very short with Viney and does not appreciate when Viney offers her opinion of the changing circumstances in the Keller household after Annie Sullivan's arrival. Viney shows a fear of Captain Arthur Keller and was unsure of her place in their relationship. The distrust and resentment of the North by the South are seen in *The Miracle Worker* drama script with the arrival of Annie Sullivan, who was from the North, and her relationship with Captain Arthur Keller. From the beginning, Captain Arthur Keller establishes himself as a man of the South while he was discussing the Battle of Vicksburg with his son James Keller during Annie Sullivan's first breakfast with the Keller family. The Battle of Vicksburg lasted for 47 days and ended with the

glory of the North, led by Ulysses S. Grant or Hiram Ulysses Grant on July 4th, 1863. Grant becomes famous for his determination during this Civil War battle and Captain Arthur Keller later compares Annie Sullivan's stubbornness with Grant's. Captain Arthur Keller's prejudice and resentment can be seen in his remarks about Grant's drunkenness; therefore, Arthur's comparison of Annie Sullivan and Grant could be constructed as negative. Captain Arthur Keller was also afraid of Annie Sullivan's methods because of her young age and the fact that Annie herself was virtually blind. In these examples, Gibson was showing deeply rooted prejudices common among many Americans.

b. Compare and Contrast

1) The 1880s:

Alabama and the rest of The South just finished living through the period of reconstruction which followed the Civil War. Southerners were distrust of the North's methods and ideas, including the rights of African Americans.

The 1950s:

Alabama attracts international attention as the place where Civil Rights Movement was born. The SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) which leads by Martin Luther King Junior, helped the African American community to mobilize and plan a strategy to realize their goals, which included voting rights and desegregation.

2) The 1880s:

Black communities of American in the South struggle to find their place in society. Most of them work as servants in the households of wealthy white families.

The 1950s:

The practice of segregation led to little opportunity for the black community of America to receive higher education and advance to well-paying careers.

3) The 1880s:

Sign language, like the hand symbols that Annie Sullivan uses in *The Miracle Worker* drama play, was introduced to American society. It is met with strong resistance and non-gesticulating schools continue to hold prominence.

The 1950s:

The invention of the telling touch enables a sighted caller to communicate with a deaf, blind, and mute person who can read braille.

4) The 1880s:

Almsouses or asylums are used to house America's disabled and outcasts where they are used for forced labor to help defray maintenance costs. The Perkins Institution for the Blind founded by Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe in 1832 continues to offer an alternative to asylums as well as teaching the visually and hearing impaired.

The 1950s:

Blind, deaf, and mute students attend public schools with non-disabled students. Special day and residential schools were also common and continue to receive funding to help meet the needs of deaf, blind, and mute students as well as their teachers.

A. Discussion

In this part, the researcher will answer and explain the research question. The researcher will discuss how Meaningful Choice of Life reflected in the drama script, what are kinds of Meaningful Life and the reason why the author William Gibson raised Teaching Independence as a Meaningful Choice of Life as some of the topics in the drama script.

The Miracle Worker drama play was written in the United States during the late 1950s, which was the beginning of a period of change in American society. America had just witnessed the paranoia of the McCarthy hearings, during which many theatre artists were charged with participating in un-American activities or simply accused of being Communist. The mid to late 1950s also witnessed the beginning of the civil rights movement in the southern United States, including in Alabama, where The Miracle drama play is set. In the United States' theatre, the crumbling facade of the American dream in the plays of Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller had been seen by the audiences. All of these aspects are a part of The Miracle Worker drama play in its form, origin, and focus.

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4. Conclusion

After analyzing the drama script, *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson using an existentialist theory, the researcher finds the correlation

between the underlying theory and the issue which has been raised by the researcher. The researcher explains the conclusion as follows.

1. Teaching independence as a meaningful choice of life that disposed to think positively and take responsibilities to teach even to a blind, deaf and mute student, because the study is right of every human being.
2. Meaningful life is depicted clearly in the drama script. Some acts are done by the main character in the drama script. Annie Sullivan is the main character in the drama script. How teaching independence as a meaningful choice of life is reflected in the drama script when Keller's Family already gives up teaching Helen Keller but Annie Sullivan is always an optimist that Helen can learn, and persist to teach Helen. Teaching independence is a meaningful choice of life also reflected when Annie Sullivan faced every problem to teach Helen Keller. Until finally Helen Keller can understand names.
3. The Miracle Worker was in influence in many lives. The drama script makes you think about who the reader of the drama script and watcher the drama can agree and disagree with, and also showed some point of view to face the problem and solve it positively and take any opportunity. The message that the drama script wants to convey to the readers is that can be everyone especially those who had problems learning or teaching their students, should optimistic and persist because everyone has the right to teach and everyone can learn anything.

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