

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) is one of the most popular movies in India. The screenplay of this movie is adapted from the novel entitled *Q & A* written by Vikas Swarup. Vikas Swarup is an Indian novelist and diplomat who has served in Turkey, the United States, Ethiopia, Great Britain and South Africa. He becomes more famous for his novel *Q & A* is raised in movie entitled *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008). It won the best screenplay in academy awards in 2009. His debut novel, *Q and A* was shortlisted for the Best First Book by the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and won South Africa's Exclusive Books Book Prize 2006. The movie is produced by Celador Films and Film4 Productions, distributed by Warner Bros. This movie has duration 120 minutes. It was first shown at the Telluride Film Festival on 30 August 2008 and got positively received by audiences. Then, *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) debuted with a limited North American release on 12 November 2008, followed by a nationwide release in the United States on 23 January 2009 and in Indonesia on 11 February 2009.

Slumdog millionaire (2008) is directed by Dany Boyle, as a British filmmaker and producer . Boyle won numerous awards in 2009, including the Academy Award for Best Director with his work *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008). He is well known for his work on films such as *Shallow Grave*, *Trainspotting* (1996), horror film *28 Days Later* (2002) and *Slumdog Millionaire* in 2008, the story of

an impoverished child on the streets of Mumbai who competes on India's variant of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, for which Boyle has won an Academy Award. The film gets eight Academy Awards in total. Boyle takes a subject that is often seen portrayed realistically, in a politically correct way, whether it is junkies or slum orphans. He has managed to make it realistic, incredibly uplifting and joyful.

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) is a film about friendship, gratitude, love, betrayal, and hope. This movie describes a young poor man who becomes a millionaire through experience of his life. *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) combines drama, romantic and reality-social commentary in one movie. This movie shows the injustice and discrimination that are experienced by poor people in India. There are some distinctions between poor and rich people.

This movie tells about a boy named Jamal Malik, an 18-year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, who becomes a millionaire from his life experience. Jamal is tortured by the police officers in a precinct, accused of cheating a game show. Jamal, who has no education and works in a call center serving tea, is close to winning twenty million rupees in the show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" hosted by Prem Kumar. He gives precise answers to the questions and raises suspicion of fraud. As the police brutally interrogate him, Jamal recounts through his flashback stories. The incidents of his life have provided every his correct answer. These flashbacks tell the story of Jamal, his brother Salim and Latika. The police inspector shows the videotape and after each question, Jamal tells parts of his childhood with his brother Salim, his crush for Latika and their fight to survive

on the streets. Every his correct answer is guided by his common sense and experience. It proves his innocence. Each chapter of his story shows some discrimination experiences as key answers of the game show questions. Jamal as the protagonist in this film describes one of the real figure who lives in deplorable condition amid the grime, sewers and trash dumps of slum.

After their mother's death, Salim and Jamal meet Latika, another street child from their slum. The three are found by a gangster who names Maman. He tricks street children become a beggar and look for money for him. Salim and Jamal make a living travelling on top of trains, selling goods and pretending to be tour guides at the Taj Mahal. Jamal eventually insists that they return to Mumbai to find Latika. They discover that Latika has been raised by Maman to become a prostitute whose virginity is expected to fetch a high price. Years later, while working as a tea server at an Indian call centre, Jamal searches the centre's database for Salim and Latika. He succeeds in finding Salim, but one day Jamal follows Salim in Javed's residence and he meets Latika. While Jamal professes his love for her, Latika asks him to forget about her.

Jamal tries out for the popular game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, because he knows Latika watches it regularly. He makes it to the final question despite he gets a hostile attitude of the show's host, Prem Kumar. However, Kumar and the police find it impossible that a simple "slumdog" could possibly know the answers of many obscure questions. Then, he is under arrested by police.

In another place, Salim gives Latika his mobile phone and car key. He asks her to forgive him and to go to Jamal. Latika agrees and escapes. Salim fills a bathtub full of cash and sits in it, waiting for the death and he knows it will come when Javed discovers what he has done. Jamal's final question is the name of the third musketeer in *The Three Musketeers*, a fact he never learned. Jamal uses his "Phone-A-Friend" lifeline to call Salim's cell. Latika succeeds in answering the phone in time, but she does not know the answer and tells Jamal that she is safe. Simultaneously, Javed discovers that Salim has helped Latika escape. Salim kills Javed, followed by Salim's death at the hand of Javed's men. Finally, Jamal and Latika can together and keep their love.

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) gets many awards, there are Telluride Film Festival, later screenings at the Toronto International Film Festival and the London Film Festival. *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) was nominated for ten Academy Awards in 2009 and won eight, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay. It also won seven BAFTA Awards (including Best Film), five Critics' Choice Awards, and four Golden Globes in 2009.

There are many responses toward *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) in positive and negative responses. This movie has positive responses that can be proved by its rating and award. Rotten Tomatoes has given the film a 94% rating with 207 *fresh* and 14 *rotten* reviews. Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun Times* gave the film 4 out of 4 stars, stating that it is, "a breathless, exciting story, heartbreaking and exhilarating." *Wall Street Journal* critic Joe Morgenstern refers to *Slumdog Millionaire* as, "the film world's first globalized masterpiece." Kenneth Turan of

the *Los Angeles Times* describes the film as "a Hollywood-style romantic melodrama that delivers major studio satisfactions in an ultra-modern way" and "a story of star-crossed romance that the original Warner brothers would have embraced, shamelessly pulling out stops that you wouldn't think anyone would have the nerve to attempt anymore. Movie City News shows that the film appeared in 123 different top ten lists, out of 286 different critics lists surveyed, the 3rd most mentions on a top ten list of any film released in 2008.

On the other hand, there are also many negative responses toward this movie. It can be shown by critics from Mick LaSalle of the *San Francisco Chronicle* states that, "*Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) has a problem in its storytelling. The movie unfolds in a start-and-stop way that kills suspense, leans heavily on flashbacks and robs the movie of most of its velocity. And the slum setting in this movie can make people's view that India is poor country and it is not interesting for tourism.

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) is wonderful movie. There are four reasons why the writer is interested in studying this film: first reason is because the plot of this movie is unique. The second reason the movie has perfection of character and characterization. The third reason is *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) has moral spiritual lesson for life. And the last reason is *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) is a reflection for human life.

The first reason is the plot of this movie is unique, it can be seen from Jamal's experiences jump of one time into another time or it is started from present time and followed by the other past event. Boyle shows *Slumdog*

Millionaire's plot successfully because this plot structure consists of exposition (introducing character, places and particular event), complication (the high tension) and resolution (the outcome of the story). A good plot also shows some aspects such as causality and plausibility. This movie has cause effect relationship because it tells what is happened next. It is described that Jamal's experience is a cause and Jamal become millionaire is an effect. The plot of *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) not only has causality aspect but also plausibility. It shows that the story of this movie is reflection of human life.

The second reason is the movie has perfection of character and characterization. The characters of *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) especially Jamal as the major character can represent the story of a struggle life. It shows how the poor survives, the kind of violences are accepted by poor people, and the exploitation of children. It also shows a life experience can help someone to reach his success. Even though the main character leads an incredibly difficult life he always has hope. All actors of this movie play totally and they make the audience enthusiastic with this drama successfully. In this film Boyle uses three characters of protagonist, they are Jamal in childhood, teenager hood and adulthood. These three characters have succeeded to stir the audience's emotion and make them curious on this movie

The third reason is *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) can be moral spiritual lesson for someone life. The audience can get moral lesson that can change their life to be better. They do not only get moral message but also knowledge because this movie raises India history. This movie proves how a person who has nothing

can survive and love others. Jamal shows his struggle to face the challenges of his life. The audience will aware that life must have a dream and a goal. People must survive and struggle to face their life in order to achieve their dream.

The fourth is *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) as a brilliant entertainment holds up a mirror for human life. The genre of this movie is drama and reality-social movie, the theme of this movie is experience life (philosophical aspect). In *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), Boyle has described the existence through Jamal as the major character. Jamal has chosen to get her love trough game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. His experience shows that he has choice between good or bad for his life. This movie shows oppression, prejudices and economic exploitation within poor people in India. The majorities of Indian is poor people, there are still many discrimination and prejudice that are faced by poor people in India. This film also describes an Indian history, it is about a religion war between Moslems and Hindis. Therefore, *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) is not only a film but also it contains many moral massages and Indian history.

Therefore, quest for meaning of Jamal's existence in *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) becomes an issue chosen by the researcher. All people always will face many choice in life, and will decide what they want to chose based their belief in their experience. Jamal searches for meaning of existence are illustrated by an unique, wonderful and unusual experiences. The experiences may represent his quest of life meaning.

The writer will observe *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) with Existentialism theory of needs by Sartre. He classifies the major points of Existentialism into seven categories, namely: being, existence before essence, consciousness, freedom to choose, anxiety, transcendence of ego and nothingness. The writer can conclude that an existentialist perspective is the suitable approach to study this movie through the major character (Jamal).

Concerning with the above previous reasons, Jamal searches meaning of existence that influences for his life. Therefore, the writer is eager to analyzing it using existentialist approach entitled **QUEST FOR MEANING OF EXISTENCE OF JAMAL IN DANY BOYLE'S *SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE* MOVIE (2008): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**

B. Literature Review

In this research, the writer uses such previous researches to prove the originality of the research.

The research by Najjahul (UMS, 2010) entitled *Representations of Brotherhood and Equal Opportunity in Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire Movie (2008): A Semiotic Approach*. She describes structural elements of *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) built in good production. She also describes the representation of brotherhood and equal opportunity in *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008). They are represented in the title, characterization, setting, plot sequence, and cinematography. She also analyzes some criticism reflected in this movie. The director wants to say that everyone has equal rights and equal opportunity to choose their own way for success and happiness.

The second previous research is by Nugroho, Budiasih Wulan (UMS, 2010) entitled *Globalization of Pop Culture In Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire Movie (2008): Sociological Approach*. This study describes globalization of pop culture in *Slumdog Millionaire* movie based on sociological approach. Having analyzed this movie, she draws some conclusions. *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) suggests that communication technology help spread pop culture to the global world. Second, it is evident that this movie has a class relation to the social realities of the Indian society. She describes that this movie is a great deal extent ray aspects of the society including social, political, economic, cultural, and religion aspects.

Based on the descriptions above, the researches above are different with the writer here because the first research and second research use semiotic and sociological as approach but the writer uses existentialist approach. The similarity of these researches are the use of *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) movie as data source.

C. Problem Statement

Problem statement is essential for the research because it makes the study be clearer and more focus. Based on the title and the background of the study, the writer formulates the problem statement as follows “How is the quest for meaning of existence of Jamal reflected in Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008)?”

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the writer proposes the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *Slumdog Millionaire* movie that helps the writer to identify how the movie represents Jamal's meaning of life
2. To analyze the film based on Existentialist approach that helps the writer to describe Jamal's meaning of life

E. Limitation of the Study

To make the research be appropriate to the objective of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. She will only focus on the problem of Jamal's existence that is described in the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*, and focuses on Sartre's theories of existentialism.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are expected from this study are as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. By doing this research, the writer wants to have contribution in criticizing a literary work and particularly studies on Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire*.
- b. The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in Existentialist approach of literature analysis

2. Practical Benefit

This writer is expected to give deeper understanding about quest for meaning of existence of Jamal in Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* using an existentialist approach.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer analyzes Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008). There are five elements that should be taken into account in this research, they are:

1. Type of the Study

This research is called by a qualitative research because it is a library research while data sources are using literary data and the writer analyzes the data coming from the script of *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) movie by using methodology of literature as the reference. It aims at analyzing the movie using existentialism approach.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) directed by Dany Boyle and released on 30 August 2008.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

A main data source is the movie *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) directed by Dany Boyle. Secondary data include material about the author and material about existentialist.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In conducting this study, the writer uses the techniques as follows:

- a. Watching the movie
- b. Taking Note
- c. Reading the script
- d. Classifying the data

- e. Reading relevant book
- f. Browsing on the internet to look for information that relates with movie, such as movie's script, identity, public response, etc.
- g. Coding the data that is suitable with the movie.

001/SM/D1/05:43

Note:

001 : number of data

SM : Slumdog Millionaire

D1 : disc 1

05:43 : time

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of analysis data in this study is descriptive, to give an interpretation of the text. The writer analyzes quest for meaning of existence Jamal found in Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008).

H. Paper Organization

The researcher organizes this research paper into five chapters. Chapter I delivers an introduction that consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II presents underlying theory which covers the notion of existentialism of literature, Sartre's major principles of existentialism, structural elements of movie, and theoretical application. Chapter III comprises structural analysis which includes structural element of *Slumdog Millionaire* movie and discussion. Chapter IV discusses existentialist analysis, it consists of existentialist aspect of Jamal which includes being, existence before essence,

consciousness, freedom to choose, anxiety, transcendence of ego, nothingness and discussion. Chapter V delivers about conclusion and suggestion. Beside that, the last part will be bibliography and appendix.