

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Love gives meaning to Everyone's life such as having friendship, or faith in God. There are many factors that can lead everyone to have meaning in their existence, like true happiness, peace, harmonious feeling. A man is created to the world with intelligent and feeling. God gives him an opportunity to live and to exist in his society. In reality, a man needs struggle in life. A happiness can be achieved when people live their life with kindness. Sometimes life is not in the line like what people want. Life requires struggle. People need efforts to get what they want and never give up to reach it.

One of movies which gives a positive response to those things is *Eat Pray Love*. *Eat Pray Love* is adapted from a book by Elizabeth Gilbert. Its settings of place are the first is in Italy, the second is in India, and the last is in Bali. It is starred by Julia Roberts as Liz Gilbert, Javier Bardem as Felipe, Richard Jenkins as Richard, I Gusti Ayu Puspawati as Nyomo, Hadi Subiyanto as Ketut Liyer. Released on October 13 2010, *Eat Pray Love* movie has running time 133 minutes or 2 hour 13 minutes and its fund is about \$ 60,000,000.

*Eat Pray Love* was directed by Ryan Murphy. Ryan Murphy, a multitalented American that has been a director and producer of film and television, and also a writer. He is also best known for creating the television shows *Nip or Tuck*, *Popular* and *Glee*. He was born in 1966. He grew up in

Indianapolis, Indiana and attended Catholic school from first through eighth grade and graduated from Warren Central High School (Indianapolis). Murphy started his career in television in 1999 with the three comedy series *Popular*, *Nip or Tuck* and *Glee*. He won the Golden Globe Awards as the best creator of *Nip or Tuck*. In 2010 Murphy directed Julia Roberts in an adaptation of Elizabeth Gilbert. The film was a box office success with critical failure.

This movie tells about, the life of a woman who has a modern life style and also works as a writer her name is Liz Gilbert. She lives in New York with her husband. It is the most ideal life that every woman wants to have a husband, a mansion and brilliant career. However, she is not happy and lives in inner peace. She loses her identity and begins not to live in balance that makes the relationship with her husband not harmonious. Finally, she decides to divorce from her husband. Here the struggle of her life is really begun. She tries to find the true meaning of life by travelling around the world. Before deciding to leave New York, she meets a young man who falls in love with her very much. Although Liz loves him too, she could not live with him who is being selfish and ignoring her. She has no reason to cancel her trip, the three countries are chosen Italia, India and Indonesia (Bali). Those countries are different each other. She hopes that she could “find herself”.

The first trip of Liz Gilbert is Italia. She learns how to enjoy some foods and Italian language. In India, Liz finds the power of pray and all about new experiences that relate with religion. The final trip is in Bali, the most traditional and exotic place. She tries to make balance of her life and get true

love. Liz visits many beautiful places there, meets a handsome man and falls in love.

There are positive and negative responses toward this film. The positive response is from Richard V.Vogt who states that *Eat Pray Love* is more than just one woman's story from the very beginning. There is a deep realism in the middle of movie. Liz spends her time in Rome by learning how to live life on her own and deliberately resisting romance. (<http://www.cinemablend.com/reviews/eat-pray-love-4788-html>). In negative response, Radit thinks that *Eat Pray Love* movie does not have a point and no sense of continuity, it is like three stories with separated story that is acted by the same actress.

The market is also interested in this movie, in Box Office, it is mentioned that *Eat Pray Love* debuted at #2 behind *The Expendables* with \$23,104,523. It had the highest debut at the box office with Roberts in a lead role since *America's Sweethearts* in 2001. In its initial ten-day run, it increased its revenue to a total of \$47.2 million. *Hollywood.com* commented that "sibling rivalry is rarely as publicly manifested" as this. *Eat Pray love* movie, made on a budget of \$60 million, has so far grossed \$80,574,382 in the United States and Canada, while in a worldwide it reaches total of \$204,594,016. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eat\\_Pray\\_Love\\_%28film%29#cite\\_note-10](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eat_Pray_Love_%28film%29#cite_note-10)).

*Eat Pray Love* won many Awards. First, it is given to James Franco by Central Ohio Film Critics Association Award in *Eat Pray Love* movie for

Actor of the year 2011 and nominated best supporting actress in Black Reel Award. Second, in 2011 Viola Davis is nominated in Black Reel Award as best supporting actress. Michael Dennison also is nominated in Satellite Award as Best Costume Design in 2010. The best Indonesian actress Christine Hakim got “International Federation of Film Producers Association Award” in Queensland, Australia. (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0879870/awards>).

There are five reasons why the writer is interested to study *Eat Pray Love* movie. They are character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, and theme. First, the character's *Eat Pray Love* especially Liz as the major character shows a woman who searches the meaning of her life by travelling around the world.

The second is setting of place in this movie. The director, Ryan Murphy presents the movie with attractive and beautiful locations for its setting of place. He chooses three locations in the world that have different culture. Filming locations include New York City (United States), Rome and Naples (Italy), Delhi and Pataudi (India), Ubud and Padang-Padang Beach at Bali (Indonesia). Those are beautiful very much.

The third, director uses plot that is easy to understand, excited and attractive for this movie. He tells about life of Liz Gilbert and the detail of the problem well and also about her struggle to search meaning of life.

The forth is point of view. It is shown by mysterious character namely Ketut Liyer. This character in this movie appears to advice or to make suggestion or give spirit shown by Ketut Liyer in *Eat Pray Love*. The Last is

the philosophical aspect (experience life) as theme. In *Eat Pray Love*, Ryan Murphy has described the existence through the major character, namely Liz Gilbert. The major character has a choice to decide to travel around the world to search meaning and leave everything that she has had. The choice between good and bad has to give meaning of her life. Here, she decides to visit the three countrysides that are peace and beautiful.

The search for meaning of life in *Eat Pray Love* movie is one aspect which is interesting. Through this movie, it can be seen that the writer wants to discuss Liz's searching for meaning of life illustrated by experience in her trip around the world.

The writer will observe *Eat Pray Love* with existentialist criticism by Sartre's theory. Sartre classified the aspect of existentialist into seven, such as: Being, Existence Precedes Essence, Consciousness (Cogito), Freedom to chose, Anxiety, Transcendence of Ego, and Nothingness.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Eat Pray Love* movie by using existentialist criticism. Therefore, the writer constructs the title: **THE SEARCH FOR MEANING OF LIFE IN RYAN MURPHY'S *EAT PRAY LOVE* (2010): AN EXISTENTIALIST CRITICISM.**

## **B. Literature Review**

As far as the researcher knows, the study of the movie *Eat Pray love* has been conducted by Juanita Campbell Rasmus (2010) which entitled " Eat Pray Love or Lectio?" (<http://conversationsjournal.com/2010/11/eat-pray->

love-or-lectio/). She tries to show the condition that is in our life, there is a goal; it is not only learning to pray but learning to be. Actually, a man learns to live, and make meaning every moment in life.

The other study of the movie *Eat Pray Love* has been conducted by Mary Loudriedger (2010) entitled *Eat Pray Love*([http:// maryloudriedger .livejournal.com](http://maryloudriedger.livejournal.com)). She tries to show that food, faith and family are the three things that make women struggle and find a balance to make them happy.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is how the search for meaning of life is reflected in *Eat Pray Love* movie.

### **D. The Objectives of The Study**

After formulating, the research problems based on the phenomena mentioned on the background study the researcher intents to:

1. Analyze Ryan Murphy's *Eat Pray Love* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. Describe the search for meaning of life in Ryan Murphy's *Eat Pray Love* movie based on an existentialist perspective.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing Liz Gilbert's the meaning of life in Ryan Murphy's *Eat Pray Love* movie based on Sartre's theory of existentialism.

## **F. The Benefits of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

### 1. Theoretical benefit

This research paper has some benefits, which are to give contribution to literature research dealing with Ryan Murphy's *eat pray love*.

### 2. Practical benefits the study

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and of the researcher and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another people who have interest with literary study on the movie from an existentialist perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### 1. Type of the Study

The type of research is qualitative in which the writer does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data.

### 2. Object of the study

The major character, in this case is Ryan Murphy's *Eat Pray Love*.

The writer is going to analyze it by using Existentialist criticism.

### 3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

#### a. Type of the Data

The data of this study are image and text in *Eat Pray Love* movie by Ryan Murphy. It can be images in each scene of movie and text of manuscript in *Eat Pray Love* movie.

b. The Data Source

- 1) The primary data source is the film and manuscript of *Eat Pray Love* movie directed by Ryan Murphy which related to the study.
- 2) The secondary data sources are the books, journals, internet and other sources that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the data collection

The technique of data collection in this study is note-taking and image capturing. The researcher views the primary data repeatedly to reach more understanding of source. Next, the writer takes, compares, quotes, and studies others data into some categories and develops them into a good unity.

5. Technique of the data analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive in which the researcher uses an existentialist approach and adds structure analysis of this data work at *Eat Pray Love* movie.

## H. Research Paper Organization

The researcher systematizes this research into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which 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, Sartre's major theory of existentialism, structural elements of movie, and theoretical application. Chapter III deals with the structural Analysis of the Movie, which



consists of Character and Characterization, casting, plot, point of view, theme, Mise-en-Scene, cinematography, editing, sound and discussion. Chapter IV presents the Existentialist Analysis, which consists of Being, Existence Precedes Essence, Consciousness (Cogito), Freedom to choose, Anxiety, Transcendence of Ego, Nothingness and discussion. Chapter V presents Conclusion and Suggestion.