

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Everyone has their own right to choose what they believe. That chosen things also has consequence of each. In every side of life there are many situations which make us so happy, disappointed even frustrated. All of this should be in good handling. Even too much happy is not absolutely good for us, and also we cannot be too much long in bad situations. Balancing is the key. In Aphorism, it is said that “Life is Chosen”. Actually life is yours. Absolutely we are free to bring our life and choose the way which we through.

Eat, Pray, Love is the movie which tells about a woman named Elizabeth Gilbert (Julia Robert). She is a writer who newly divorced with her husband Stephen (Billy Crudup). She has relationship with the younger David (James Franco), and subsequent year-long solo journey from Italy to India and Bali. She gets big value from her journey in three different cultures. First, she experiences pleasure in Italy. She enrolls in Italian language classes and immerses herself in the beauty of this romantic language, and Italian culture. She meets new friends Sofi (Tuva Novotny) and Giovanni (Luca Argentero), both of them are Liz best friend, and Italian tutor in Rome. She has Gelato in the morning, discovers

the best pizza in Italy, and shares Sardinian wine with friends. She experiences a soccer game in Italy, where the natives are the most passionate of fans, and deal with defeat by gathering at the bakery and eating cream-puffs. As she leaves Italy, she proclaims to be free from her gnawing depression, and not surprisingly, back to her normal weight.

She then travels to India where she practices hours of silent meditation at her Guru's Ashram. She does not reveal her Guru's name or the Ashram location, as to not publicize it. She especially thanks her Guru in the book's introduction. Again she get best friend at Indian Ashram, Richard (Richard Jenkins). Not claiming to be a theological scholar or the Ashram's official spokesperson, Elizabeth speaks of her experiences in India from her personal standpoint only. Her meditations start off in frustration, as her mind whirls with seemingly endless, cluttering thoughts. However, through hours of practice of silence at the Ashram, she has "seen" God in her meditations, and has learned that God is found within herself, and to find peace one must return-to-self. This is the most important account of her travels. Her time in India is described beautifully and honestly.

Elizabeth finds love in Bali, Indonesia. Elizabeth met Ketut (Hadi Subiyanto), a ninth generation Indian medicine man, two years ago prior to this trip. She explained to him then that she wanted to learn to live in this world, and to enjoy its delights, but also to devote herself to God.

Ketut asks her to come to Indonesia to teach him English, and he, in turn, will teach her everything he knows. She fulfills her destiny by living and learning with Ketut, in Bali, Indonesia, her final destination. She meets Wayan (Christine Hakim), a Balinese healer, and Felipe (Javier Bardem), a Brazilian man who loves and adores her with "such single minded concentration. (*Eat Pray Love, 2010*)

Eat, Pray, Love (previously "*The Virtues of Life*") is a 2010 comedy-drama film starring Julia Roberts as Elizabeth Gilbert, based on Gilbert's best-selling memoir of the same name. The film was co-written and directed by Ryan Murphy. *Eat, Pray, Love* began principal photography in August 2009. Filming locations include New York City (United States), Rome and Naples (Italy), Delhi and Pataudi (India), Ubud and Padang-Padang Beach at Bali (Indonesia). Hindu leaders voiced concern over the production of the film and advocated for the use of spiritual consultants to ensure that the film conveys an accurate reflection of life in an ashram. The two Balinese lead characters (Ketut Liyer and Wayan) are played by Indonesian actors Hadi Subiyanto and Christine Hakim.

Ryan Murphy is an American writer, film and television director and producer, best known for creating the television shows *Nip/Tuck*, *Popular* and *Glee*. Murphy grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, in an Irish Catholic family. He attended Catholic school from first through eighth

grade, and graduated from Warren Central High School (Indianapolis). Murphy attended Indiana University, Bloomington. While at college, he was a staff member of the school newspaper, the *Indiana Daily Student*, and he was a member of the school's "Singing Hoosiers" show choir. He started out as a journalist working for *The Miami Herald*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *New York Daily News* Knoxville News Sentinel *Knoxville News Sentinel* and *Entertainment Weekly*. He began scriptwriting in the late 1990s. Murphy is the Golden Globe-winning creator of *Nip/Tuck*, which aired on FX and is both a commercial and critical hit. He is executive producer and has written and directed many episodes; in 2004, Murphy earned his first ever Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series. In 2006, Murphy wrote the screenplay for and directed the feature film *Running with Scissors* based on the memoir by Augusten Burroughs, in 2010 Murphy directed Julia Roberts in an adaptation of Elizabeth Gilbert's memoir *Eat, Pray, Love*. The film was a box office success but a critical failure, getting harsh reviews criticizing its pacing and lack of credibility.

This movie invites some positive and negative reaction from society. In *The Huffington Post*, critic Jenna Busch wrote, *Eat, Pray, Love* is ultimately charming and inspirational. Though it doesn't have quite the impact of the book, it will likely leave you pondering your life choices and forgiving your flaws. It will certainly have you forgiving the few flaws in the film. The performances are just too fantastic, the vistas too lovely to

pay too much attention to anything else. Other negative reaction wrote by Italian Newspaper *La Repubblica*, journalist Curzio Maltese wrote, How many platitudes fit in a two-hour-twenty-minutes-long movie? Several, if *Eat, Pray, Love* is anything to go by. Sure, if TV director Ryan Murphy's directing weren't so slow, even more would. For example, in the long part shot in Rome, the mandolin is conspicuously absent. There's a shower of spaghetti, Italians who gesticulate all the time and shout vulgarities as they follow foreign girls around. There's lots of pizza. But no mandolin. Why? Goes without saying that the story would've surprised us more if Julia had found out how well one can eat in Mumbai, how much they pray in Indonesia, and how one can fall in love even in the *Grande Raccordo Anulare*, possibly avoiding rush hour.

There are many reasons why the researcher interested in *Eat, Pray, Love* movie. First, the movie is based on true story. The movie actually is adapted from book with the same title *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Elizabeth Gilbert has written a very entertaining and enlightening book about her travels to Italy, India, and Indonesia. Following her divorce, Elizabeth experienced a crushing depression resulting in panic, confusion, and weight loss. From this inspirational story of her travels and explorations of three different cultures, in an effort to find balance in her life, Ryan Murphy was taken this to the movie.

Then, the director is the second reason. The director of this movie is Ryan Murphy. Ryan Murphy can make this movie become a good movie. He was calculated well about many aspects of this. From make up until the bigger things which influence of the successfully from movie. The film was a box office success. To date, the film has grossed \$204,482,125 worldwide. Ryan Murphy might seem like an odd choice to handle all of this, given that his current hit shows *Glee* gets in its own way constantly, subbing cute lines and manic plot twists for actual character and story. But *Eat, Pray, Love* swings the opposite direction, taking itself and its star way too seriously to carry the same thrill as Gilbert's book. Thirdly, the locations take place. This movie takes place in three different location and country. There are Italia, India, and Indonesia. Each of this country has their own culture which crystal clear shown in this movie.

Freedom to choose is the issue which researcher chose. The main character wants to know about her self. Her big decision to have long journey, leaving her beloved people including she decided to divorce with her husband. She is searching for balancing, and all answers of their question about life. According to this reasons, the researcher would like to analyze freedom to choose in Ryan Murphy movie's *Eat, Pray, Love* based on Existentialist Approach, and the title is **FREEDOM TO CHOOSE IN RYAN MURPHY'S MOVIE *EAT, PRAY, LOVE* (2010) : AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**

B. Literature Review

As far as the researcher knows, the study of the movie *Eat, Pray, Love* has been conducted by Dyta Deasy Angriani (USU, 2011) which entitled *An Analysis of Searching True Identity In Elizabeth Gilbert Novel Eat, Pray, Love*. She focused on major character of the self finding after divorced. Tried to search true identity by the long journey between Italy, India, Bali and finally she found her balance.

The literature above is different from this research. The researcher will analyze freedom to choose in *Eat, Pray, Love* movie. Here the researcher uses Existentialist Approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is “How Elizabeth Gilbert, the main characters of *Eat, Pray, Love* expressed her freedom to choose”.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing Elizabeth Gilbert’s freedom to choose in *Eat, Pray, Love* movie based on Sartre’s theory of existentialism.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe the movie based on an existentialism approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to the body of knowledge, particularly the application of the existentialist approach in literary studies on the *Eat, Pray, Love* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who interests about existentialist approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which employs the method of

collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of Data

The data is from the script of the *Eat, Pray, Love* movie directed by Ryan Murphy. It included in every scene of the movie.

b. Data Source

The primary data is the film and the manuscript of *Eat, Pray, Love* movie by Ryan Murphy. The secondary data sources are from books, internet and other resources which related to the study.

3. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Eat, Pray, Love* movie directed by Ryan Murphy.

4. Techniques of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection is the researcher watching the primary data first and repeatedly. Next, researcher reads some related books as secondary sources to find out the theory, data and information required and take notes of important parts in both primary data and

secondary data. Then, classify data into categories and draw conclusion to get last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The method employed in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis, in which the data are collected, described and then analyzed. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie. Researcher uses existentialist approach and draws conclusion.

H. Research Paper Organization

The researcher divided this research report into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which included Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study. Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory, which consists of the notion of Existentialist, structural element of the movie and theoretical application. Chapter III deals with structural analysis of the movie. Chapter IV presents the Existentialist Analysis. Chapter V contains conclusion and suggestion.