

**SECRET OF THE TRUTH
IN MIKE NEWELL'S *PRINCE OF PERSIA* MOVIE (2010):
AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**



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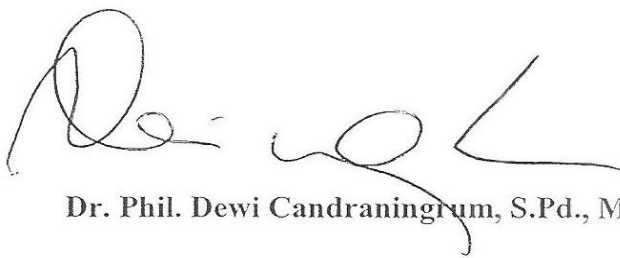
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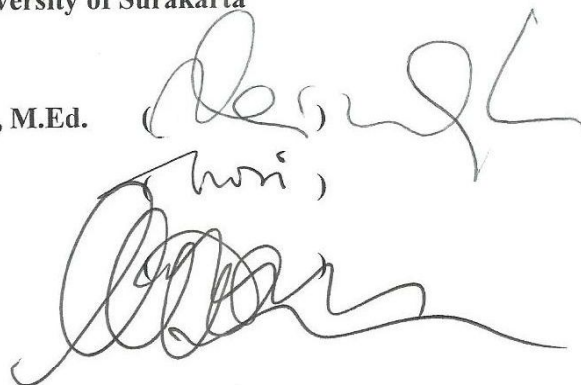
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SECRET OF THE TRUTH IN MIKE NEWELL'S *PRINCE OF PERSIA* MOVIE (2010): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This study is about secret of the truth in Prince of Persia movie (2010). This objective of the study is to apply the Existentialist approach to analyze the secret of the truth in Prince of Persia. The writer uses Sartre's major point of Existentialism to answer the problem of the study. The study is descriptive qualitative research whose data are taken from script in Prince of Persia. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive. The study comes to the following conclusion. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme, casting, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, and editing are related to each other and form the unity. Second, based on the existentialist analysis, human have different existence, their existence are based are based on different being, choice, and act. Human has a freedom to choose and then responsible for his existence. The responsibility will appear an anxiety. Mike Newell wants to convey a moral message that human should tell the truth whatever the risk. If the secret of the truth should be kept, it would be taken responsibility not only for himself but also for the whole humanity.

Keywords: Secret of the truth, Prince of Persia, Existentialist Approach.

I. Introduction

Background of this study: Human has an argument or say something that was happen. But, he could say something is true based on that event or not. If he could say something based on what happened, it might be called truth. *Prince of Persia* is a live-action movie based on the video game and the same name. It was released on May 28th, 2010, being produced by Jerry Bruckheimer for Walt Disney Pictures. The script was written by Jordan Mechner, with Mike

Newell directing. By November 2007, Disney entered negotiations with Mike Newell to direct the film based on a script by Mechner and Nachmanoff. In March 2008, director Mike Newell selected Morocco as a shooting location for *Prince of Persia* and also planned to film in Pinewood Studios. Production was scheduled to begin in mid-June 2008. By May 2008, actors Jake Gyllenhaal and Gemma Arterton were cast into the lead roles.

This movie tells about a young fugitive prince and princess who must stop a villain who unknowingly threatens to destroy the world with a special dagger that enables the magic sand inside to reverse time. Adopted from the streets of Nasaf by King Sharaman of Persia, young Dastan grows up amongst royalty and quickly earns his place as a mighty warrior and prince. Years later, the Holy City of Alamut ruled by Princess Tamina is under siege of the troops led by Tus, Garsiv and Dastan, after their uncle Nizan had intercepted a spy carrying weapons for Alamut. Dastan gets a dagger from an enemy. Tamina tells him the importance of the dagger - it can transport the bearer back in time. With his new found weapon, Dastan sets out to change past events and learn the identity of the man who betrayed them and killed his stepfather. Many people are interested in this movie because this movie contains action, the history, and also the romantic story. *Prince of Persia* is the interesting movie. There are four reasons that make the writer be interested to analyze this movie. The first is the movie tells about history.

This movie tells about history of Persia. This movie also tells about history of the society life in Persia. The second reason is *Prince of Persia* movie contains not only Princess Tamina and Prince Dastan but also social condition on ninth century in Persia. This movie present the societies condition in Persia. The third reason is *Prince of Persia* movie tells about the secret of the truth by Dastan. The fourth reason is *Prince of Persia* (2010) as a brilliant entertainment holds up a mirror for human life. The genre of this movie is action and romance.

There are two researchers who have conducted the study of *Prince of Persia* movie. The first researcher is AR. Fachrudin (2011) : his research entitled “ Social Discrimination in Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* (2010) : A

Sociological Approach”. The focus of this study is on the social life condition in ninth century of Persia. The second researcher is Supriyanto (2011) : his research entitled “ Struggle for the truth of Dastan’s life reflected in Mike Newell’s Prince of Persia movie (2010) An Individual Psychological Approach”. The focus of this research is on struggle of Dastan’s life. The difference between previous research and this research is the issue of this research. Beside that, this research has same object that uses Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* movie (2010). The researcher tries to analyze the major character’s life using an existentialist approach while previous researchers focuses on the social life condition in ninth century and the struggle of the major character.

Problem statement this research, “How is secret of the truth reflected in Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* movie (2010) interest for existentialist approach ?” The writer focuses this research in analyzing secret of the truth in Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* movie (2010) by using an existentialist approach. **Limitation of the study**, the writer focuses this research in analyzing secret of the truth in Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* movie (2010) by using an existentialist approach.

Objective of the study in this research are analyze secret of the truth based on major character in Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* movie (2010) based on Existentialist Approach and analyze Mike Newell’s *Prince of Persia* movie (2010) based on the structural elements of movie.

Literature review related to the research paper is AR. Fachrudin (2011): his research entitled “Social Discrimination in Mike Newell’s Prince of Persia (2010) : A Sociological Approach”. The focus of this study is on the social life condition in ninth century of Persia. The second researcher is Supriyanto (2011) : his research entitled “ Struggle for the truth of Dastan’s life reflected in Mike Newell’s Prince of Persia movie (2010) An Individual Psychological Approach”. The focus of this research is on struggle of Dastan’s life.

II. Research Method

Type of the study, the writer uses descriptive qualitative research. **Object of the study**, the object of the study is secret of the truth in Mike Newell's *Prince of Persia* movie (2010) and publishing by Walt Disney Picture in May, 2010 and data it is analyze by Existentialist Approach. **Type of the data and the data source** the primary data in this research is the Mike Newell's *Prince of Persia* movie (2010). The secondary data sources are Existentialist theory book and also *Prince of Persia* movie review. **Technique of the data collection** the techniques of collecting data are capturing the picture and note taking. **Technique of the data analysis** the technique of data analysis uses descriptive qualitative analysis.

III. Existentialist Theory

A. Notion of Existentialism

According to Sartre (2002: 40) there are two kinds of existentialists, namely "Theistic existentialists or Christian existentialists" and "atheistic existentialism". Christian existentialists are Jasper and Gabriel Marcel Heidegger, Albert Carnus and Sartre are included in atheistic existentialist. Both of them believe that existentialism before essence but they have different opinion about existentialism.

Existentialism taught that truth and act involve the environmental and subjectivity of man. Sartre (2002: 5) said also that the reality of existentialism in every human come from "depth" each soul, it is arranged systematically by human thought, because the objectivity of knowledge is not always same with truth.

B. Major points of Existentialism

1. Being

Being in-itself is non-conscious being. Human has a conscious whether they are exist, so the subject of being-in-itself is the things. It's just exist and being, but they cannot choose nor has freedom to choose. Being-for-itself is conscious of human which know that they are exist and being in the real world. The subject of being for-it-self is human.

2. Existence before Essence

The second major principal of existentialism is the terms existence before essence that is proposed by Sartre. Hasan (Hassan, 1985: 103) explained that “man is nothing else but what he makes of himself. Such is the first principle of existentialism.” Further it is explained, “A man lives mean that he has *an existence* rather than a man is which means he has being or essence.”

3. Consciousness (Cogito)

Consciousness is closely related to action, since man must have his consciousness, when human acts. A man must have certain purpose to do something. When he decides something, he must predict its profit and its loss. When he makes decision for his life, his consciousness plays an important role. It's means that create their own values and determine a meaning to their life.

4. Freedom to Choose

Man is free and responsible. Human is responsible on himself because human has freedom and opportunity to do, to choose good life or bad life and to become everything he wants. Whatever he chooses, the choice which has been chosen by him is taken by human as personality. Every existence and choice needs responsibility.

5. Anxiety

Sartre expressed that anxiety happens when human decides himself as what he wants to be, but what he decides to choose as a choice. It will be hard to take a responsibility by him (Hassan, 1985: 105). All choices will have a risk and it also responsible, because of that the anxiety will be felt by him because of the hard responsibility and the risk. Anxiety appears when people have chosen a choice in their life with responsibility and consequent.

6. Transcendence of Ego

Human cannot live in society individually; human needs the other people to help him in the universe. Human lives together with the other

human as the part of the society. That is important for human to show himself as the part of society. Human has a big power of Ego to help each other in the society. Transcendence of Ego is such kinds of tendencies for human to do more helpful for their society as an useful person or a hero.

7. Nothingness

Every existence must be ended by death; it means that death is one of prevention of human freedom. Human life, absolutely they exist, they can do anything and other human else can receive their existence but when people die, they will be nothingness. Sartre proposed that death is absurd, it is because the death cannot be waited in reality, but the death just can be hopped and human just arrive it (Hassan, 1985: 108).

C. Definition of Truth

1. Notion of Truth

Everyone can agree that logic and truth are intimately connected. Truth is the valid arguments that conclusions are true whenever the premises are true (Greg Restall, 2009: 2). If human do not define validity in terms of truth but by means of proof, this does not sever the connection between validity and truth. One important feature of valid arguments is that its preserve truth. According to William James (1909: 95) truth happens to an idea. It becomes true and made true by events. It is verified in fact an event and a process.

2. The Characteristic of Truth

Human has an argument or say something that happen. But, he could say something is true based on that event or not. If he could say something based on what happened, it might be called truth. Truth has three characteristics. As following Brandom quotation,

“Firstly, truth is public. Truth is the same for everyone. If something is true, it is true for everyone. If something is false, it is false for everyone. Secondly, truth is independent of anyone’s belief. Something may be false even if everyone believes it to be true. Something may be true if nobody belives it to be true. Ththirdly, truth

is eternal. A true statement is true, was true, and always will be true,”(Brandom in Restall, 2009: 37).

a. Truth is Public

Truth is the same for everyone. Humans believe that something is true, so everyone should believe it. Human has a God. Everyone believes that God is one and only.

b. Truth is Independent

Something may be false or true depends on everyone would believe it or not. Human has a freedom to choose what the best is. If human save the truth to everyone, he would lie. He may have a reason for it. So, everyone believes that it is true.

c. Truth is Eternal

A true statement is always true. Everyone believes that something was true and always will be true. The sunrise would arise from east and sunset to the west.

IV. Research Finding

A. Existentialist Analysis

1. Being

One is based on Tamina’s views, which give meaning to the dagger. According to Tamina, the Dagger of Time is the sandglass of the God. This dagger is very sacred because it is the heart of all people in earth. If the dagger was stolen by other peoples, it will be damaged to earth. The dagger gives its owner the ability to go back in time for a short period so that the user can try to correct any mistake or redo any moment. However, Tamina reveals that the Sandglass is the vessel holding the Sands of Time, which the Gods conjured to punish humanity for its sins. A pure hearted girl, offering her life, should the Dagger of Time be used, the sands would be released and destroy the entire world.

Dastan : “Nizam's coming to kill us.He needs me dead. I need to know why.”
Tamina : “In Alamot lies the beating heart of all life on earth. The Sandglass of the gods. Long ago, the gods looked down on man, but saw only greed and treachery. So, they sent a great sandstorm to

destroy all, wipe clean the face of the earth. But one young girl asked the gods to give mankind another chance. Offering her life in exchange. Seeing the purity within the gods were reminded of mankind's potential for good. So they swept the sands into the Sandglass. The dagger was given to the girl who saved man, making her the first Guardian. The dagger blade is the only thing that can pierce the Sandglass and remove the Sands of Time. But the handle only holds one minute."

Dastan : "What if one were to place the Dagger in the Sandglass and press the jewel button at the same time?"

Tamina : "Sand would flow through endlessly."

Dastan : "Time would flow back as far as you like."

Tamina : "Yes, but it is forbidden."

(POP, II, 00, 59: 52 -- > 01: 01: 14)

2. Existence before Essence

Everyone has existence; existence is the way of human exists in the world. Human has absolute freedom and unlimited, human right to seek his own way and then responsible for his existence. This phenomenon is called existence before essence. In *Prince of Persia* movie there are two major characters which are focused in analyzing of existence before essence on the process of their becoming.

The first character is Dastan. In the process of being Dastan was illustrated by he is someone who came from poor citizenry in the market. He was adopted by King Sharaman because his brave faces the Nasaf soldiers.

King Sharaman : "What is your name, boy"

Young Dastan : "Dastan, Sir."

King Sharaman : "And your parents?"

Young Dastan : "Boy..."

King Sharaman : "Brother, take him up."

(POP, I, 00, 03: 20 -- > 00, 03: 37)

After young Dastan has growth up, he wants to lead the war to attack Alamut city. But, Garsiv does not believe of him that he can lead the war because Dastan came from the poor citizenry. Dastan will attack the Alamut city from another way. He does not want to hurt other humanity.

3. Consciousness (Cogito)

Consciousness is an aspect of an existentialist that as a point to analyze and to show the meaning of life from main character. Humans must exist first and then an existence he was aware of the meaning in his life after he does something and realizes his own life has meaning. The first major character is Dastan. Consciousness of Dastan came when he realized that he must attack Alamut silently with a good plan without many people hurt. He leads the war together with Bis. He orders Bis to attack in different gate of him.

Dastan : “That's our way in. There are two gates. The outer one's easy, but it's the inner gate that's impossible. The gate mechanism is protected by two man-guard towers. Yeah, there's always in, Bis. You take care of the outer gate. You leave the impossible one to me.”
Bis : “Yeah, that's how you won't be happy until you get us all killed.”
Dastan : “Ooh, wonderful speed, Bis. Rousing.”
(POP, I, 00, 09: 39 -- > 00, 09: 57)

4. Freedom to Choose

Freedom to choose is the condition of man in making choices. Humans have an absolute and unlimited freedom. Human also determine his choice without any influence from others. But in this point researchers will analyze freedom to choose from major characters that is Dastan.

Nizam : “Swords of the best workmanship.”
Garsiv : “Steel-tipped arrows.”
Tus : “A promise of payment from the warlord Kosh, to Alomet. They're selling weapons to our enemies, Dastan.”
Garsiv : “An arrow such as this slew my horse in Koscan. Blood will run in Alamoet streets for this.”
Dastan : “Or our soldiers will fall from its walls. Our orders were to Koscan, not to attack Alomet.”
Nizam : “Wise words, little brother. Words won't stop our enemies, once they're armed with Andalucian blades.”
(POP, I, 00, 05: 53 -- > 00, 06: 23)

He consciously took all the risks that would occur if he chooses to follow what is Tus has planed. His brothers, Tus wants to Dastan attack the Alamot but Dastan thinks that it will hurt Alamot people. But, Nizam

always give bad suggestion to Tus and finally he follow what is Nizam said. But Dastan have another plan for himself without follow his brothers.

5. Anxiety

When human needs to choose and should make a decision, then his choice will appear a responsibility and the consequence of his choice. That responsibility will appear an anxiety. It can be seen in *Prince of Persia* movie and shown by Dastan and Tamina.

The first character is Dastan, his anxiety came when he choose to give back the dagger to Tamina for take it in the temple. He feels has the responsibility for him to give back the dagger because the dagger is not his mine. He must help Tamina to take the dagger in the safety place and save whole humanity from Nizam wickedness.

Dastan : "Do you have any idea where you're going?"
Tamina : "I memorized this path as a child. Every Princess must. It's sacred. It's here. The Sanctuary, the one place the Dagger can be hidden safely."
Sheik Amar : "I was expecting to golden statues, waterfalls."
Tamina : "Give me back the Dagger, so I can take it there."
Dastan : "Don't cut yourself, Princess."
(POP, II, 01: 08: 55 -- > 01: 09: 51)

6. Transcendence of Ego

Transcendence of ego in *Prince of Persia* movie is shown at the major characters that are Dastan and Tamina. Dastan ego comes when he and his brothers discuss on a plan to attack the Alamot city. He does not want many peoples hurt useless because of the battle.

Tus : "A promise of payment from the warlord Kosh, to Alomet. They're selling weapons to our enemies, Dastan."
Garsiv : "An arrow such as this slew my horse in Koscan Blood will run in Alomet streets for this."
Dastan : "Or our soldiers will fall from its walls. Our orders were to Koscan, not to attack Alomet."
(POP, I, 00, 05: 59 -- > 00, 06: 16)

7. Nothingness

Nothingness is the limitation inherent human freedom, which in turn also limits of human existence itself. And a death is a form that limits human freedom itself. Death means anything of human existence is over. Human cannot go on their life. For example in this movie is when Garsiv was killed by Hassansins.

Garsiv is nothingness because he can not continue his existence. He was died so it is end of human existence. Garsiv cannot forward his life and he cannot do anything. In this movie, Garsiv on nothingness condition because he cannot forward his existence. When the human on nothingness condition, it means they have no meaning in life for themselves even to the whole human.

B. Charactersitic of Truth Analysis

1. Truth is Public

Truth is the same for everyone. Human believes that something is true, so everyone should believes it. This characteristic can be seen in *Prince of Persia* movie. Tamina says that the dagger is from God and it has a magic power, so everyone should keep the dagger. If the dagger is not safe, God would destroy anything in the world. Anyone who knows about the dagger believes that it should be kept. They believe that God would be angry when humans make a sin. As in this dialogue,

- Tamina : “In Alamut lies the beating heart of all life on earth. The Sandglass of the gods. Long ago, the gods looked down on man, but saw only greed and treachery. So, they sent a great sandstorm to destroy all, wipe clean the face of the earth. But one young girl asked the gods to give mankind another chance. Offering her life in exchange. Seeing the purity within the gods were reminded of mankind's potential for good. So they swept the sands into the Sandglass. The dagger was given to the girl who saved man, making her the first Guardian. The dagger blade is the only thing that can pierce the Sandglass and remove the Sands of Time. But the handle only holds one minute.”
- Dastan : “What if one were to place the Dagger in the Sandglass and press the jewel button at the same time?”
- Tamina : “Sand would flow through endlessly.”

Dastan : "Time would flow back as far as you like."
 Tamina : "Yes, but it is forbidden."
 (POP, II, 00, 59: 52 -- > 01: 01: 14)

Tamina named this dagger is The Sandglass of the God. It can go back the time and undo the mistake. So, anyone can change any moments that they want. But, this dagger is only used by human to have a good action. When this dagger is used by wrong human to do bad action, the God would punish him.

2. Truth is Independent

Something may be false or true depends on everyone would believe it or not. That truth is independent shown in this movie like in this dialogue,

Tus : "We've had indication that Alomet was arming our enemies."
 King Sharaman : "Indications? You've got to have more than indications to occupy a holy city. With my troops! This, adventure, won't sit with our allies. But I suppose, you didn't take that into account. Don't look for your uncle. Boy!"
 Tus : "The decisions and its consequences will rest with me."
 King Sharaman : "I know you're eager to wear the crown, But trust me when I tell you, you're not ready."
 Tus : "No man would know better than you, Father, because your trust is something I deeply cherish, I will oversee the search for weapons myself. I vow I will not stand before you until I hold proof of Alomet's treachery."
 (POP, I, 00, 19: 10 -- > 00, 20:11)

Spy of Nasaf city tells that Alamoet has weaponry, so Tus and his uncle attack Alamoet city. But, it is only indication and Tus believes of indication. After he attacks Alamoet, he cannot find what he finds out. His father is angry because of this indication. His father said that indication should be proofed.

3. Truth is Eternal

A true statement is always true. Everyone believes that something was true and always will be true. In this movie, truth is eternal. It is shown when Tamina tells the truth to Dastan. It describes in this dialogue bellow,

Dastan : "It's hard for me to admit, but you were right.I did see what I was looking for."
 Tamina : "Dastan, listen to me."
 Dastan : "When my uncle sees the power of this dagger,he'll believe me."
 Tamina : "Dastan I know ...I haven't been entirely honest with you."
 Dastan : "Oh, but your lies are so clever."
 Tamina : "I am the guardian of the Divine Covenant."
 Dastan : "Oh, oh."
 Tamina : "That dagger is sacred.It was being smuggled to safety when you stole it.If the dagger gets into the wrong hands..."
 Dastan : "I will take care of your knife.You don't want to miss this."
 Tamina : "You don't understand what's at stake!This is a matter of the gods, not man!"
 Dastan : "Your gods, not mine! Come on!"
 (POP, I, 00, 38:08 -- > 00, 38: 46)

V. Conclusions

Based on the Existentialism *Prince of Persia* movie has the existentialist aspect that creates in character in this movie. Dastan starts his existence by being that is signed by good action. Being is signed by human action. The second, process of becoming can be seen in the existence before essence. Human has absolute freedom and unlimited, human right to seek his own way. Dastan was adopted by King Sharaman, so he has a responsibility to save his father whatever the risk. The third is based on consciousness. Consciousness of Dastan came when he realized that he must attack the Alamot with a good plan without many human hurt. The fourth is freedom to choose. Dastan tries to choose tells the truth of the dagger to Tus. The fifth is anxiety, anxiety of Dastan came when he choose to give back the dagger to Tamina. He feels to have the responsibility not only for him but also for whole human. The sixth requirement of human's existence is transcendence of ego. Every human has inequality level of transcendence of ego; in this condition

Dastan does not want many human hurt useless because of the battle. And the last part is nothingness. Death is a form that limits human freedom itself. Garsiv was killed by Hassansins. He does not go on his life. All those are the aspect of Existentialist Approach which occurs in *Prince of Persia* (2010) movie.

Human has a freedom to choose and then responsible for his existence. The responsibility will appear an anxiety. Mike Newell wants to convey a moral message that human should tell the truth whatever the risk. If the secret of the truth should be kept, it would be taken responsibility not only for himself but also for the whole humanity.

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