

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

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

Love has big relation with existentialist approach, The main point of existentialism are individual freedom, life choice, subjectivity, and searching for something. Everyone has story in his life. It is about how to be or search for something and the important something is about love. Human’s being is born to potential to love and be loved.

Love generally includes an emotion of intense attraction to other person, a place, or thing, and may also include the aspect of caring for of finding identification with those objects, including self love. Love can be described an intense feeling of interaction an emotional or an emotional state. In ordinary use, it is usually refers to interpersonal love usually felt by a person. For another person, love is commonly considered impossible to describe. Love is essentially an abstract concept, easier to experience than to explain.

Love is not only in the real life but in the literary work. Literary work is an expression of human life. Literary work always describe about human in society system. There are so many literary works such as novel, movie, poem, or play which illustrate feeling of love. A literary work creates its own world. A literary work which constitutes an author can reveal the truth, sadness, and happiness. The most interesting topic is discuss is a human life because experiences always develop as fast as the time goes on.

Literature is a reflection of conditions around the writer about feeling the life or showing he ideal condition wanted by the author. Literature has a tight relationship to existentialist. It is because literature and existentialist have the same object of research that is human being. Literature is a permanent expresses and communicative thoughts, feeling, and attitudes toward for life and the world.

Letters to Juliet is a 2010 American romantic drama film starring Amanda Seyfried, Chris Egan, Vanessa Redgrave, Gael García Bernal, and Franco Nero. This was the final film of director Gary Winick before he died of brain cancer. The film was released theatrically in North America and other countries on May 14, 2010. The idea for the film was inspired by the 2006 non-fiction book, *Letters to Juliet* by Lise Friedman and Ceil Friedman, which chronicles the phenomenon of letter writing to Shakespeare's most famous romantic heroine. The song *Love Story* by Taylor Swift was used for the movie *Letters to Juliet*. *Letters to Juliet* received mixed to positive reviews from critics. Review aggregate Rotten Tomatoes reports that 41% of critics

have given the film a positive review based on 138 reviews, with an average score of 5.2/10. Metacritic gave it an average score of 50 out of 100 from the 34 reviews it collected. *Letters to Juliet* opened at #3 to \$13,540,486 behind *Iron Man 2*'s second weekend and *Robin Hood*. In its second weekend, the film dropped 33.5% with \$9,006,266 into #4. The film eventually has grossed \$53,032,453 domestically and \$79,181,750 worldwide.

Letters to Juliet movie is directed by Gary Winick. Gary Winick was born on March, 31th, 1961 in New York City, New York, USA and he died on February 27th, 2011 (age 49) in New York City, New York, USA. He made his directorial debut with *Curfew* in 1988. Winick helped launch InDigEnt in 1999, and thus had a hand in producing 19 independent films over the next decade, including *Personal Velocity*, *Pieces Of April*, and Winick's own *Tadpole*. The lattermost film, a hyperliterate comedy in the Wes Anderson mold about a 15-year-old with an eye for older ladies, became a Sundance hit in 2002, the same year that *Personal Velocity* took home the grand jury prize. Shortly thereafter, Winick transitioned fully to big-budget studio work, directing broad comedies like *13 Going On 30* and *Bride Wars* as well as the live-action remake of *Charlotte's Web* and the last one is Amanda Seyfried weeper *Letters To Juliet*.

Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) is an American girl who works for the New Yorker magazine and is a fact checker. To put some spark in her life she decides to go on a 'pre-wedding honeymoon' with her workaholic chef fiance Victor (Gael Garcia Bernal) to Verona, Italy. It's a pre-wedding honeymoon

because his restaurant is going to open soon and they will not have time for a vacation for quite a while. Sophie is longing for a romantic getaway, but Victor has something different in mind. He is more interested in meeting his suppliers than spending time with Sophie.

While sightseeing, alone, Sophie discovers the Verona Courtyard and the letters to Juliet. She also discovers the “Secretaries of Juliet,” the women who respond to the letters. The following day she returns and decides to help the women. While gathering the letters from the wall, Sophie discovers a long-lost letter to Juliet from a British woman. Fifty years ago Claire (Vanessa Redgrave) was supposed to meet her lover but decided to return to England. She wrote her thoughts and feelings in the letter to Juliet.

Taken by the story, Sophie responds, hoping her reply will find its way to Claire after fifty years. Several days later she is confronted by Charlie (Christopher Egan), Claire’s grandson who has accompanied his grandmother to Verona so she can locate her lost love. Charlie blames Sophie for putting far-fetched dreams in his grandmother’s mind, but Sophie insists Claire should try to locate her lost love Lorenzo Bartolini (Franco Nero).

Soon, they look for many Lorenzo Bartollinis. After many days of searching, they find that a Lorenzo Bartolini has been dead. An angry Charlie blames Sophie for his grandmother's sadness. He yells at her, stating that she does not know what real loss is, which causes an upset Sophie to walk away. Claire, seeing the little dispute, tells Charlie that he was wrong and that Sophie's mother had walked away from her when she was a little girl. The

next day, Claire insists that Charlie apologize to Sophie at breakfast, and he does. After dinner, Sophie goes out with Charlie and talks to him about love, when he accidentally kisses her. The next morning, it is their last day of searching for Claire's long lost love. On a whim, Claire points out a vineyard to Charlie and asks if he could stop by so the three of them can have a farewell drink for Sophie. As Charlie drives down the road, Claire sees a young man who looks exactly like her Lorenzo. She yells at Charlie to stop, and he complies. They discover that the man is Lorenzo Bartolini's grandson. Claire and Lorenzo reunite after 50 long years.

Back in New York, Sophie and Victor decide to break up. Sophie returns to Verona to be at Claire and Lorenzo's wedding. She finds Charlie there with another woman, Patricia, and runs out. Charlie comes to find her (in a classic balcony setting) and she admits she loves him, but tells him to go back to his date. Telling Sophie that the girl was actually his cousin Patricia, not his ex-girlfriend Patricia, he tells her he loves her and wants to be with her. He accidentally falls off the balcony and they kiss as he's lying on the ground.

Letters to Juliet movie is a fascinating movie and there are four aspects that make this movie really fascinating. First, *Letters to Juliet* movie is the final movie of Gary Winick, the director of *Letters to Juliet*, before he finally died because of brain cancer. So, this movie is as the last dedication of Gary Winick for the Hollywood amusement world. It can be said as the last reminded of Gary Winick. Because of that, people will be anxious to watch

the movie and also to find out the message of the movie as their appreciation to Gary Winick.

The second is friendship in difference generation that appears in the story of the movie. It tells the friendship relationship between Sophie, a young woman, with an old woman, Claire. Although they do not know each other before, but after Sophie discover Claire's letter, they can build a good relationship between them. They can be good friends and they also can share each other about their loss in their life. It shows that friendship is not only for the people from the same generation but also for the people from the difference generation like Sophie and Claire.

The third is the struggle for the true love. Claire is separated for 50 years by her first love, Lorenzo Bartolini, but after she got a letter from Sophie she get back her spirit to meet her first love again. She held the pass to find out back her first love and she never gives up for it. She never gives up looking for Lorenzo. She does some efforts with Sophie and her grandson, Charlie to find back Lorenzo. She struggle until find back Lorenzo, her first love. It is a struggle to find out the first love which becomes the real love. The other struggle for the true love is Sophie's struggle to get Charlie's love. Sophie ends her engagement with Victor, and come back to Verona, Italy to meet her true love Charlie.

After the research watched *the Letter to Juliet* movie, the researcher is interested to analyzing it. There are four reasons the researcher analyzes the *Letter to Juliet* movie by Gary Winick.

Based on the description the writer uses the movie in conducting his research related to the fact. The first is the movie has an inspirational story. It can be analyzed based on the experience of the character movie. Sophie becomes a person who gives the lesson about how to faithful waiting for love. After watching the movie, the viewers are able to get moral message. This movie shows the way how to search for true love.

The second, *Letter to Juliet* movie is a simple movie. It means everyone can learn about the message in the movie. *Letter to Juliet* becomes the new story that gives inspiration to people how to searching for true love. This movie serves a simple story that will give the people new paradigm about true love.

The *third* reason is about the character and characterization. Director of this movie who finds the actor and the actress that is suitable with character so that characters in *Letter to Juliet* movie are characterized well.

The fourth reason is the cinematography. *Letter to Juliet* movie has good cinematography from the setting picture, sound mixing, sound editing, special effects, visual effects, music illustration, and another aspect that support in the making of this movie. *Letter to Juliet* movie has the best sound mixing, best sound editing, and best film editing, so that it gets awards and nomination.

So, that is why the research is interested in analyzing this movie by using an existentialist approach and takes a title for her study “ TRUE

LOVE IN GARY WINICK'S *LETTER TO JULIET* MOVIE (2010): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.

B. Literature s Review

There are two researchers who have conducted the study of *Letter to Juliet* movie as an object of the researcher. The first is Arumi Martyastuti (2007) entitled "Quest for meaning of existence of Jamal in Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* movie: An Existentialist Approach". The results of the study show, the researcher can draw in the following. Firstly, based on the structural analysis, the excellent unity between narrative elements and technical elements in the structural of movie can make the writer conclude that "Human's life will be meaningful if he exists and struggles on his life so he will get his happiness". Each of the structural elements is interrelated to each other from solid unity. Second, based on the Existentialist *Slumdog Millionaire* is the movie which has the existentialist aspect that creates in the meaningful story and character in this movie. A human being can start his existence by being that is sign of human action. Being is a measure of human existence, a dimension base on subjectivity. The second, process of becoming can be seen in the existence before essence. The third is based on consciousness. The fourth is freedom to choose, fifth is anxiety, six is transcendence of ego, and the last is nothingness. All of those are the aspect of Existentialist perspective which occurs in the *Slamdog Millionaire* (2008).

The second is Yuni Eko Sulistyowarni (2006) entitled "Hester's effort attaining love in Roland Joffe's *The Scarlet Letter* movie: An Existentialist Approach". The results of the study show, the researcher can draw in the following. Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in this film, Joffe wants to deliver a message that love can be maintained even though it is difficult and painful. In order to pass the message, the director erects a major character as a high imagination after her love anguish. In this film, Joffe's applies conventional plot. The plot begins with the exposition, conflict, and climax. Here, Joffe's employs the first major character, namely Pearl. There are major characters and minor characters and nine minor characters. The style is also used by the director in his literary work. It is divided into seven parts, namely: characters and characterization, casting, plot, setting, point of view, theme, and technical elements. Thus, the structural element of Joffe's *The Scarlet Letter* movie presents unity. Secondly, based on the Existentialist analysis also shows woman's effort to seek attaining her love in facing existence for the society process and the final decision result in freedom. They cannot do their life with different perspective in their society.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the issue and object. Arumi Martyastuti writes about Quest for meaning of existence of Jamal in Dany Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* movie by using Existentialist Approach, while the writer Yuni Eko Sulistyowarni (2006) analyzes Hester's effort attaining love in Roland Joffe's *The Scarlet Letter* movie by using Existentialist Approach. The writers find the similarities, the

researchers use same perspective, Existentialist Approach. Existentialist Approach are consists of *Being, Existence before Essence, Consciousness (cogito), Freedom to Choose, Anxiety, Transcendence of Ego, and Nothingness.*

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 true love reflected in *Letter to Juliet* movie and what is the moral of love in *Letter to Juliet* movie ?

D. Limitation of the Study

In order to focus the study, the research limits her study on the study on the human’s being existence which is describe in the movie *Letter to Juliet*, and focus on the Sartre’s Theory of existentialism.

E. 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 element of the *Letter to Juliet* movie that helps the writer to identify how the movie represents true love of Juliet’s.

2. To analyze the film based on Existentialist approach that helps the writer to describe true love of Juliet's.

F. Benefit of the Study

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

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give additional information and contribute to the large body of knowledge, particularly studies on Gary Winick's *Letter to Juliet* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

To answer the researcher's curiosity about true love of existence of Juliet in Gary Winick's *Letter to Juliet* using Existentialist approach.

G. Theoretical Application

The study of the research uses the Existentialism theory of literature to analyze true love in *Letters to Juliet* movie. After that, the writer aims to describe how true love is reflected in *Letters to Juliet* movie. In this explanation the writes uses Existentialist approach.

H. Research Method

In this research, the writer analyzes Winick's *Letter to Juliet* movie. 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 *Letter to Juliet* (2010) movie by using methodology of literature as the reference. It the aims at analyzing the movie using Existentialism approach.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Letter to Juliet (2010) directed by Gary Winick.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

A main data source is the movie Letter to Juliet (2010) directed by Gray Winick's. Secondary data source, including references and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet, such as author's biography, the nomination of Letter to Juliet movie and many other data related to this research paper.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

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

- a. Watching the movie
- b. Taking the 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.

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 true love of Juliet found in Gary Winick's *Letter to Juliet* (2010).

I. Paper Organization

The researcher organizes this research paper into five chapters. Chapter I delivers an introduction that consist of the 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 present underlying theory which covers the notion of notions of existentialist of literature, Sartre's major principle of existentialism, structural elements of movie, and theoretical application. Chapter III comprises structural analysis which includes structural element of *Letter to Juliet* movie and discussion. Chapter IV discusses existentialist analysis, it consists of existentialist aspect of Juliet which includes being, existence before essence, consciousness, freedom to choose, anxiety, transcendence of ego, nothingness and discussion. Chapter V delivers conclusion and suggestion. Besides that, the last part will be bibliography and appendix.