MAKING MEANINGFUL CHOICES IN IBSEN’S *AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE* DRAMA (1882):
AN EXISTENTIALIST CRITICISM

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in Department of English Education

By:

CANDRA BAGUS SANTOSO
A320080189

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2012
APPROVAL

MAKING MEANINGFUL CHOICES IN IBSEN’S AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE DRAMA (1882):
AN EXISTENTIALIST CRITICISM

RESEARCH PAPER

By:

CANDRA BAGUS SANTOSO
A320080189

Approved to be Examined
by the Consultant Team:

First Consultant
Drs. Muhammad Thoyibi, M. S.

Second Consultant
Titis Setyabudi, S.S., M. Hum.
ACCEPTANCE

MAKING MEANINGFUL CHOICES IN IBSEN’S AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE DRAMA (1882):
AN EXISTENTIALIST CRITICISM

By

CANDRA BAGUS SANTOSO
A320080189

Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiners
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
On July

Team of Examiners:
1. Drs. Muhammad Thoyibi, M. S.
   (Chair Person)
2. Titis Setyabudi, S.S M. Hum.
   (Secretary)
   (Member)

Dean,

Drs. Sofyan Anif, M.Si.
NIK. 547
TESTIMONY

I hereby assert that there is no plagiarism in this research paper. There is no other work that has been submitted to obtain the bachelor degree and as far as I concerned there is no opinion that has been written or published before, except the written references which are referred in this paper and mentioned in the bibliography. If any incorrectness is proved in the future dealing with my statement above, I will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, 9 Juni 2012

The writer

Candra Bagus Santoso
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks to Allah the most merciful, His blessing, can never be measured nor calculated, so that the writer can finish this research. And thanks also for the great prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, who bring the Muslim from the darkness into the brightness. The writer realizes that it is impossible to finish this paper without many supports from several people. Therefore, the writer wants to express his sincerest gratitude for all of them.

In finishing this research, the writer is indebted for the great helps, guidance, and attention to the following persons:

1. **Drs. Muhammad Thoyibi, M. S.**, as the first consultant, who has given guidance, advice, information, and time to share the story during the arrangement of the research paper.

2. **Titis Setyabudi, S.S, M.Hum.**, as the second consultant, who has corrected the grammatical structure of the research paper, and as the chief Department of English Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

3. **Drs. Sofyan Anif, M.Si.**, as the Dean of School of Teacher Training and Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

4. All lectures of Department of English Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta for their patient in teaching the writer.
5. His beloved parents, **Loso Hadi Mukson** and **Ibu Narsi**, for the love, prayer, support, and sacrifice in his life. His father always supports and gives spirit about how to face life. And for his mother, he learns about the strength to experience his life patiently.

6. His beloved brother **Drajad Santoso, Muhammad Sandhi Santoso, Hendryc Santoso** and his beloved sister **Lisa Ayuk Rahayu**, for the supports, advices, sacrifices, and prayers in his life.

7. His best friends in campus, **Juli, Arina, Trimo, Ivan, David, Tata, Arvin, Rina, Andika, Meila, Devi, Qoni, Agung**, and all friends as English Department Students for making his life colorful and also for the support, share, spirit, story, craziness, laughter, jokes, and sweet moments during studying in UMS. He hopes that they will always be best friends and remembering each other.

8. **The Oxford Drama Group**, for the best experiences that he never experiences before and also for making him become "**Edward Cullen**".

9. His dearest friends in **PSM Voca Al Kindi** and **Voca Al Kindi Voice**, for all experiences and moments, for songs that always sung together, laughter, craziness, support, spirit, advice, share, tears, struggle, and wonderful experiences during the participation in **PSM VAK**. He will not forget the best moments with them.

10. **Uncle Wahyo, Aunt Tini, Uncle Karno**, and all of friends in Karya Busana Tailor, for the supports, share, spirit, story, craziness, laughter, jokes, experiences and everything that are unforgettable.
11. **PT. Pharos Indonesia** and all partners, for the opportunity to join and give contribution for the development of the company.

12. Last but not least, those who cannot be mentioned one by one, who have supported him to finish the research paper.

The writer realizes that there are many weaknesses in this research paper, caused by the limitation of his capability and knowledge. Thus, the writer welcomes any constructive criticism from readers for the perfection of this work. Finally, he hopes this research paper would be useful for the readers.

Surakarta, 9 Juni 2012

Candra Bagus Santoso
# TABLE OF CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEPTANCE</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESTIMONY</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENT</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study ................................................. 1
B. Literature Review ............................................................ 7
C. Problem Statement ....................................................... 8
D. Limitation of the Study .................................................. 9
E. Objectives of the Study ................................................... 9
F. Benefit of the Study ........................................................ 9
G. Research Method .......................................................... 10
H. Research Paper Organization .......................................... 12

## CHAPTER II: UNDERLYING THEORY

A. Notion of Existentialism .................................................. 13
B. Sartre’s Existentialism Theory ........................................... 16
   1. Being ....................................................................... 16
   2. Existence Precedes Essence ..................................... 17
   3. Consciousness (Cogito) ......................................... 20
   4. Freedom to Choose ............................................... 21
   5. Anxiety ................................................................. 21
   6. Transcendence of Ego ............................................ 22
   7. Nothingness .......................................................... 23
C. Structural Element of Drama
   1. Characters and Characterization ............................... 23
   2. Setting ................................................................. 25
3. Plot ........................................................................... 26
4. Theme ......................................................................... 27
5. Style ........................................................................... 28
D. Theoretical Application .................................................. 30

CHAPTER III: STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS
A. Structural Elements of the Novel ................................. 31
1. Character and Characterization ................................. 31
   a. Major Character .................................................... 31
   b. Minor Character .................................................... 34
2. Setting ..................................................................... 39
3. Plot ........................................................................... 40
   a. Exposition ............................................................ 40
   b. Complication ....................................................... 41
   c. Climax ................................................................. 42
   d. Resolution ............................................................ 43
4. Style ........................................................................... 44
   a. Diction ................................................................. 44
   b. Grammatical Structure ......................................... 45
   c. Sentence Construction ......................................... 46
   d. Figurative Language ............................................ 47
   e. Imagery ............................................................. 49
   f. Symbol ................................................................. 50
5. Theme ....................................................................... 51
B. Discussion ....................................................................... 51

CHAPTER IV: EXISTENTIALIST ANALYSIS
A. Existential Aspect of Drama .......................................... 55
1. Being ........................................................................ 56
2. Existence precedes Essence ....................................... 60
3. Consciousness (Cogito) .............................................. 64
4. Freedom to Choose .................................................... 66
5. Anxiety ..................................................................... 69
6. Transcendence of Ego .............................................. 72
7. Nothingness .............................................................. 74
B. Discussion ................................................................. 75

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion ................................................................. 79
B. Suggestion ................................................................. 80

BIBLIOGRAPHY ................................................................................................................. 81

APPENDIX ....................................................................................................................... 84
SUMMARY


The major issue of this study is how people make meaningful choices for searching meaning of life reflected in Ibsen’s an Enemy of the People drama. The objective of this study is to analyze the drama based on the structural elements and also to analyze the drama based on existentialist criticism.

This study belongs to descriptive qualitative research. There are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the drama itself, meanwhile the secondary data sources are the other materials related to the study. Both of the data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis.

Based on the analysis the researcher draws the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each element, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, style, and theme are connected each other. They are unity that makes a good quality of drama. Second, based on the existentialist analysis, there is an existential value in the drama. Henrik Ibsen illustrates an existential phenomenon in which an individual is making attempts to make this life meaningful. Although he has to contradict the majority, he is willing to take the risks and also responsible for his choices.

Keywords: Meaningful Choices, an Enemy of the People, Existentialist Criticism.

Consultant I
Drs. Muhammad Thovibi, M. S.
NIK.410

Consultant II
Titis Setyabudi, S.S, M.Hum.
NIK.948

Dean,
Drs. H.Sofyan Anif, M.Si.
NIK.547