

**THE SELF REFLECTED IN SABRINA JEFFRIES'S
THE PIRATE LORD NOVEL (1998):
AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**



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AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

FEBRIANTI WAHYU PAMUNGKAS. A 320 090 114. THE SELF REFLECTED IN SABRINA JEFFRIES'S *THE PIRATE LORD NOVEL (1998): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2013.*

The major problem of this study how is the self reflected in Sabrina Jeffries's The Pirate Lord novel (1998). The study is intended to analyze the novel based on structural elements and to analyze the novel based on the existentialist approach.

The object of this study is The Pirate Lord novel by Sabrina Jeffries. The researcher employs the descriptive qualitative as a type of the research. The data source in this research is divided into two types that are primary data and secondary data. Primary data source is The Pirate Lord novel and secondary data source is books or any information related to the practice of self that support the existentialist approach. The method of collecting data is reading the novel. The technique of analyzing data in this research paper is descriptive

The result of the study comes to the three following conclusions. First, based on structural element in The Pirate Lord, it shows that character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme are related to each other and form unity. Second, based on existentialist analysis, being, existence before essence, cogito, freedom, anxiety, transcendence of ego, nothingness are reflected in Sara Willis's life. Third, theory of self is the individual characteristic in human's life. It shows that the characteristic by Sara Willis causes the conflict of her life.

Keywords: The self, The Pirate Lord, Existentialist Approach.

A. Introduction

1. Background of the study

Life is a choice. People choose ways of life to be the better. God has gives grace to people, such as the character who people cannot change, and it must accept by people. But people still get to choose what their go through in life. People try to choose the right path to life using character that has been awarded by the God. Uniqueness of a person's character makes the typical person. There is not people who born without the character.

Characters appear from a boost in oneself and personal influence. Characteristic of a person is an identity. Identity is distinguishes one character to another. Every people is born has a different character. Not only realistic in this world, but in fiction also raised different characters. There is a difference in the character of the conflict in a story. As in the story by Sabrina Jeffries's *The Pirate Lord*, there are many differences characteristic in character story.

The research of *The Pirate Lord* is important due to the following four reasons: The first reason is the story of *The Pirate Lord* is incredible. This novel tells of the amazing experiences. The story of *The Pirate Lord* novel will be inspiring women to fight for justice. The second reason that makes this novel interesting is that there is a moral value in this story. This novel tells the story of selfish and reformer of Miss Sara Willis. However, her selfish makes comforting the British women prisoners during their time in Chastity's ship. Beside that, the selfish of Sara made an example to the women for always strive to get what they wanted all along. And the fighting spirit inside of Miss Sara would make an inspiration for the women to retain everything they have.

The third reason is the writing that used in *The Pirate Lord* novel. Each sentence that wrotten in this novel is easy to understand. So that, the

reader can understand each sentence and enjoy the storyline that very interesting in this novel.

2. **Previous Study**

As far as the writer concerns, there is no researcher who analyzes *The Pirate Lord* by Sabrina Jeffries at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, UNNES, UNY, UNDIP, UNS, UGM. That is why the writer encourages himself to analyze this novel in A Existentialist Approach. This study tries to know the self is reflected in the novel of *The Pirate Lord* (1998). Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

3. **Problem Statement**

Related to the title and background of the study, the problem statement as follows: “How is the quest for the self reflected in *The Pirate Lord* Novel (1998) by Sabrina Jeffries by using existentialist approach?”

4. **Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses to analyze Sara Willis character in *The Pirate Lord* novel (1998) based on its structural elements and based on the existentialist approach.

5. **Objectives of the Study**

To analyze the self in Sabrina Jeffries’s *The Pirate Lord Novel* (1998). Based on its existentialist approach and to analyze the novel based on its structural elements by finding characters and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, theme.

6. **Benefit of Study**

This study has two benefits. First in theoretical benefit, this study is give additional information to literature research mainly the literary study on existentialist approach. Second in practical benefit, this study is to answer the research’s curiosity about Sabrina Jeffries’s Novel especially *The Pirate Lord*. And the study is expected to enrich knowledge and

experience of the researcher and another students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the novel from existentialist Approach.

7. Underlying Theory

1) Notion of Existentialist

Existentialist is a notion of individual existence in society or in someone's life. And the existences of an individual to be considered "exist". The main point of existentialists is "every human being is free" and "the existentialists emphasize the freedom is necessarily accompanied by responsibility". There are many kinds of notion the Existentialist. Each existentialist has different concept of existentialism. They have the same focus of study that is human being. Abbagnano states, "The key problems of existentialism are those of man himself, of his situation in the world and of his more ultimate significance" (Abbagnano in *The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1994: 615).

2) Characteristics of Existentialism

a. Being

According Sartre (2002) being is measure of human existence, a dimensions based on subjectivity. Sartre divides in two part, being-for-itself and being-in-itself. According Sartre (2002) being in itself (*etre-en-soi*) is non conscious being. It does not have purpose, without created, without feature, groundless and without awareness of being. Being-for-itself which is discussing the human's existence. Being-for-itself is the being for human that expresses by the action; action is the sign of human who was the being.

b. **Existence Before Essence**

One of the major principles of the existentialist is the term existence before essence proposed by Sartre. In this theory, Sartre explains that “human life is understandable in terms of an individual man’s existence, his particular experience of life”.

c. **Cogito**

Sartre explains that “cogito is self-conscious and intentional, naturally course world. As Sartre formulated= Conscious (as it) himself exists (as it) conscious a thing. Conscious is self-consciousness” (Bertens 1996: 91) but he mostly stresses his study on human consciousness.

d. **Freedom**

According to Sartre in Roberts freedom means, “that man fall into existence and then find that he must make himself whatever he is going to become”.(Roberts 1957: 217).

e. **Anxiety**

The point of this theory is “the people are aware of who we are and fully responsible for our existence” and people distinguish; if we claim that we are not anxious, and then we are merely hiding our anxiety. (Sartre, 2002:49)

f. **Transcendence of Ego**

Human existence will be good if he always chooses the choice which is useful for himself and also for everyone else. I am creating a certain image of man of my own choosing. In choosing myself, I choose a man”. (Hasan, 1985:105).

g. **Nothingness**

When some people live absolutely they exist, they can do anything and other people can receive their existence. But when

the people die, they will be nothingness, according to Nietzsche in Hasan (Hasan, 1985:49).

3) **Theory of Issue**

a. **Notion of the Self**

That the individual feelings and experiences of external objects will attach meaning. Overall system of perception and meaning it will form an individual's phenomenal field, which is seen as "self" or "me" and some parts of the field are phenomenal over time become "self".(Rogers, 1942)

b. **Characteristic of Self**

1. **Organism**

According Rogers (1942) the term organism describes the individual in totality; organism is an organized system of total. Where if one part of the system changes, it will also result in changes to section other. So here organism explains that a person is reflected in the way of thinking, way of behavior and physical form.

2. **Phenomenal Field**

According to Rogers (1942) Phenomenal field is the overall experience of having experienced a person. Every individual in life is continuously changing life experience which himself is the center of incident.

3. **Phenomenal Self**

According to Rogers (1942) phenomenal self differ from field comprising various perceptions and values of "I" and "me".

B. Research Method

1. Type of Study

In this study the researcher applies qualitative research that has two data source, namely library and literary data. Its aim is to analyze using existentialist approach. There are five steps to conduct the research. First is determining the type of the study. Second is determining the object of the study. Third is determining data and data source. Fourth is determining technique of data collection. The last is determining technique of data analysis. The type 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 object of the study is *The Pirate Lord* novel.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study, there are two source of data namely primary data and secondary data source. The primary data are taken from the novel of *The Pirate Lord* by *Sabrina Jeffries*. Secondary Data The researcher takes the secondary data source, literary book, criticism, and some articles in internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

There are five techniques of data collection. First, reading the novel. Second, downloading to the internet to get some information and articles related to the research. Third, taking notes or information in both primary and the secondary data and finding the out the important data. Fourth, arranging the data into several parts based on its classification. Fifth, developing data which are provided.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher applies a descriptive approach. The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. Second step is analyzing the data based on existentialist approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of the self.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

In this research, the researcher analyzes some points and the result of the study as follows:

1. Structural Elements of *The Pirate Lord*

a. Character and Characterization

1) Major character

a) Sara Willis

Physically, Sara Willis was especially pretty, though her looks certainly presentable. She also has red peach lip, wide forehead and soft skin. And also she has red-brown hair.

It wasn't that she was especially pretty, though her looks were certainly presentable. She drew men to her with her intelligent manner and her frank kindness toward everyone, regardless of their station. A sour, pinch-faced spinster teacher might have nothing to fear from the sailors aboard the *Chastity*,... (TPL, Page 15)

Mentally, Sara is a selfish. And she always struggled for the good and a decent life for others.

"You can't stop me, you know. I'm old enough to go where I please, with or without your permission. Even if you lock me in my room, I shall simply find a way to escape—if not in time for this voyage, then in time for the next." (TPL, Page 7)

Morally, Sara is a daughter of the Earl of Blackmore. She has gentle attitudes and she has polite attitude towards others. And other attitudes, she is very friendly.

She smiled at the woman... (TPL, Page 20)

Her amiability seemed to take the woman aback (TPL, Page 20)

Sara cast her a reassuring smile. "And your name is—" (TPL, Page 21)

Socially, Sara Willis is a reformer. And she is as a Lady of Earl Blackmore.

"Reformer?" The carriage jolted as it hit a pothole. When it moved more smoothly again, she added, "I can think of no place that needs a reformer more." (TPL, Page 7)

b) Jordan Willis

Physically, Jordan is a handsome man. He has auburn hair and brown eyes. So, he is similar to Sara.

She stared at her handsome stepbrother, whose auburn hair and chestnut eyes so resembled her own that people often mistook her for his real sister (TPL, page 5)

Mentally, he always loves his half sister. No matter how hard attitude, but he is very worrying her half sister. His worry that as a sign of dear for Sara.

"Don't be like that, Sara. I've told you before, while you may ignore the dangers you encounter with that Quaker woman Mrs. Fry and her Ladies' Committee, the servants and I do not" Even Hargraves, who approves of your reform efforts, is no fool. He recognizes how risky your new scheme is. He merely did his duty by telling me. If he hadn't, I would have sacked him, and he knows it." (TPL, Page 5)

Morally, Jordan always assertive for her sister. It is looks when he settles the Sara's activity. It is to protect Sara Willis.

Though she was used to Jordan's formidable temper, she didn't at all like being the recipient of it. Most of London society joined her in that particular dislike, for Jordan was frightening indeed when he was angry. (TPL, Page)

c) Gideon Horn

Physically, the physical of Captain Gideon Horn is righteously the sailors. Captain Gideon Horn is a strong man. Heavily set, burly and a little scary with long hair. Coldly handsome despite thick brows and crooked mouth.

There were other things, too, like his great height. And his clothes, which were as fine as any she'd seen. The dove-gray breeches hugging his muscled legs were of an excellent cut and quality, and his belt was crowned with a jeweled buckle. (TPL, Page 48)

Mentally, Captain Gideon Horn is very selfish, arrogant to the crew. But, Captain Gideon Horn has a true heart for his crew.

There was certain haughtiness in him that was lacking in the others (TPL, Page 48)

He might be a pirate, but he would not deliberately harm her. (TPL, Page 229)

Morally, Gideon is the only person who has authority in the ship *Satyrs*. He is a man who was very rude, he often rudes and disrespectful to others. He is Philanderer.

Suddenly, the door to the crew's quarters shot open, crashing against the wall with such force that Petey nearly fell off his hammock in surprise. In strode the Pirate Lord himself, looking every inch the devil's spawn, with eyes like night fires and fury on his scarred face. His gaze fell on Petey at once, so virulent that it struck terror into Petey's breast. (TPL, Page 139)

2) Minor character

a) Thomas Hargraves

He is a middle-aged man, and he is a waiter in the kingdom of Earl of Blackmore. He always obedient to Sara and his master, namely Jordan. Hargraves always faithfully serves their masters command and also loyal to Sara.

Poor Hargraves colored to the roots of his thinning hair. "I'm sorry, miss. Truly I am." (TPL, Page 14)

b) Petter Hargraves

Petter Hargraves is the youngest brother of Hargraves. He is a sailor who has long on duty in the Navy for 6 years. Petter Hargraves called Pettey.

“He looked like nobody she knew. A wiry man of about thirty years, with big ears and skinny limbs, the only thing he resembled was an organ grinder's monkey.....” (TPL, Page 17)

c) Captain Rogers

Captain Rogers is a middle-aged man who captained the ship in Chastity. He is a man who is good-natured, although he is very rough manner of speech.

She watched glumly as Captain Rogers entered and took his seat at the opposite end of the breakfast table. The good captain would never escort her. A blustering, gruff man in his fifties, he was more interested in sailing his ship than in talking to the troublesome woman the Ladies' Committee had sent aboard (TPL, Page 18)

d) Louisa Yarrow

Louisa is one of the female prisoner were convicted of killing the son of his master. And she is a governess to the daughters of Duke of Dorchester.

Louisa was the one who'd been a governess to the Duke of Dorchester's daughters until the night she'd stabbed the duke's eldest son and nearly killed him. Now the gently bred woman was serving a sentence of fourteen years' transportation. TPL, Page 23)

e) Ann Morris

Ann Morris is a prisoner from Wales. She is innocent and good-natured. She is punished for stealing a pot of gold to pay his mother who was sick. The girl is very pretty, her body a doll, and she has soft skin and white teeth like ivory.

Sara looked toward the timid young voice, but when the black haired girl stood, clutching at the iron bars of a cell to steady her balance, Sara realized she wasn't a girl at all, but a doll-like creature of womanly proportions (TPL, Page 21)

f) Quennie

Quennie is prisoner who likes to tease the crew of ship. And even she is a courtesan often takes the philanderers when inside the ship satyrs.

One of the women who claimed to both read and write, a saucy tart by the name of Queenie, refused to do any teaching, stating that she'd rather spend her time in "other" pursuits. When she lifted her skirts and swished them about her calves, several women laughed and Sara knew at once what Queenie meant. (TPL, Page 22)

g) Bernabby Kent

Bernabby Kent is a major officer in the pirate ship called *Satyrs*. He is the only one crew Satyr that England. He is a tough and talented sailor. And he always prioritizes appearances.

b. Setting

1) Setting of Time

In *The Pirate Lord*, the beginning of the story takes setting of time in the year of 1818.

2) Setting of Place

Generally, setting of place takes only in horse carriage, in Chastity ship, on the Satyr ship, isolated island, the Atlantis Island, etc.

c. Plot

1) Exposition

The story of *The Pirate Lord* begins when Sara Willis's childhood and when the days she was accompanied by his beloved mother. This story tells of the social status of Earl of Blackmore family. .

2) Conflict

The conflict in this novel happens when Sara Willis sailing along the woman prisoners who are sent to New South Wales by Chastity.

3) Climax

The climax goes through when Sara became confused. He was confused when all the women and children had been transferred to the ship satyrs.

4) Resolution

The resolution in this novel is when Sara succeeds go out from the island of Atlantis. He left it all. She went home to England to meet Jordan. But she returned to Atlantis to meet Captain Horn.

d. Point of View

In *The Pirate Lord*, Sabrina Jeffries uses point of view is third person narrator.

e. Style

Style refers to the way of the author's writing, which consists of grammatical structure, sentence construction, dictation, figurative language, imaginary, and symbol.

1) Diction

Sabrina Jeffries chooses the some unfamiliar term to understand. The novel about the pirate, so she also uses some borrowing words from another language

2) Rhetoric

In the novel *The Pirate Lord*, Sabrina Jeffries uses hyperbole as anaesthetic effect in literary work. And the reader is more interested in reading her work

3) Symbol

Character in the story also has a meaning beyond itself. Major character in the story Sara Willis is a symbol of true love of a reformer.

4) Sentence construction

Sabrina Jeffries uses long narration, a combination between long and short sentences.

f. **Theme**

The theme in *The Pirate Lord* novel is “The struggle is the act of individual to get something or maintain their own in life”.

2. **Existentialist** Analysis

a. Sara’s System of Personality

In this novel, Sara Willis is a major character who faces inner conflict in her life.

1) Being

Being in itself in *The Pirate Lord* novel impress in the major character is Sara Willis. Being in itself can be seen when she disguises as a “teacher” in the ship Chastity. Her reason disguises as a “teacher” is she want to do an honest assessment of conditions on the voyages. In

addition, she also wants to save the female prisoners from miscarriages of justice.

"I'll admit that many are thieves and prostitutes...or worse. But at least half are women whose poverty compelled them to steal. You should hear their 'heinous' crimes—stealing old clothes to exchange them for meat or taking a shilling from the till. One woman was sentenced to transportation for stealing four cabbages from a field. Four cabbages, for goodness sakes! Why, a man would hardly have his hand slapped for such a crime!" (TPL, Page 6)

2) Existence Before Essence

In *The Pirate Lord* novel by Sabrina Jeffries focused in analyzing of existence before essence on the process of their becoming. In the process of being, Sara Willis is someone reformist and selfish. She always answers back to her half brother, because she always feels go the right way about it.

"Jordan, you fool, put that gun down at once!" shouted a familiar feminine voice Sara ran out from beneath the quarterdeck to stand in front of Gideon, facing the earl. "Don't you dare shoot him! Don't you dare!" (TPL, Page 337)

3) Cogito

Sara does her mother tradition because she wants to do an important for her life and her happiness. Sara does her mother tradition likes a reformist. She does it, her life can be meaningful and she feels happy for it. She does it with the reason that a thing which she considers it is right will bring happiness. She follows the Chastity Ship when the ship will sail to New South Wales. The journey to New South Wales does not easy as she thinks. Their journey gets an obstruction, because the ship chastity is under arrest by the pirate. Finally, Sara Willis lives in Satyrs with the prisoners, and at the end she can back go home to England.

Her mother had fought hard for reform, starting on the day Sara's father, a soldier out of work, had been cast into debtor's prison. It had

continued even after his death there. Indeed, Sara was convinced that her mother's altruism was what had attracted the late Earl of Blackmore to her. Her mother had met the earl, a very progressive man, while soliciting his aid in getting members of the House of Lords to listen to her plan for prison reform. They'd fallen in love almost at once. Even after marrying him, she'd stayed active in her reform work. Until she'd died two years ago after a long and wrenching illness. (TPL, Page 8)

4) Anxiety

In *The Pirate Lord*, the first character is Sara Willis. Her anxiety comes when she chooses to get married with Petter Hargraves. She does not love him, but she must marriage with him. She gets married with him; because she wants to leave the pirate and she can free of molest the pirate. In addition, Ann Morris loves Petter Hargraves. Ann wants to marry with him and Sara Willis cannot to outrage Ann Morris.

"I guess you heard what Captain Horn said. That we must choose husbands."

He nodded, his hazel eyes darkening. "I heard. And I got a plan for that. When the time comes for you and the women to choose, you'd best choose me."

The idea took her by surprise. Marry Petey? Though she knew his suggestion was designed to protect her, she wasn't sure she liked it. A lifetime on a remote island would be bad enough, but a lifetime with a man she barely knew...

Of course, she didn't know any of these men, did she? But one of them might want her for herself instead of marrying her out of some sense of duty. "I don't know, Petey—"

5) Transcendence of Ego

Sara Willis is a reformer. She feels has a tendency to do the best to help others. It makes her feels that her life would be meaningful if she does the best for her and others. She has a big power to help others. Her ego to help other is important and it shows that Sara is a good female and charitable.

"More hapless women forced into virtual prostitution for daring to steal bread for their children." She leaned forward, stirred by moral outrage. "These convict women are being sent to a foreign land for

the slightest of offenses, merely because Australia needs more women." (TPL, Page 5)

6) Nothingness

Sara's nothingness came when Gideon was not with her. Gideon did not touch Sara during long weeks. Gideon's activities has made Sara feels lonely. Sara try to find Gideon, but Gideon did not come to meet Sara. Sara missed him; she wanted to meet the pirate.

The second week was harder. By then, after much jostling and quarreling, everyone had fallen into a routine. Each had taken the jobs that best suited them, and were diligently working to put Atlantis back together. That meant less time for discussing things with Gideon and fewer excuses for seeking him out. What's more, he sometimes didn't stop for lunch, although he ate with her when he did. (TPL, Page 247)

3. The Self of Sara Willis

a. Organism

In the novel, the first major character is Sara Willis. In this novel, the organism within Sara Willis expressed through her attitude and expression in a manner of speaking. She is a soft princess, but because she is are formism the way of thinking and behavior changes. She is a princess who should be soft and elegant. However, because of her profession as a woman reformer, she must be a woman who firmly in her live. Just as long as she sails in a ship the chastity of women prisoners, she is try hard to face all of what will happen on the ship and she is a lady of Earl of Blackmore and she should change her behavior becomes unruly. Behavior change was formed because over the various problems faced. The behaviors changes will be shown such as;

She smiled at the woman. "Very well. Those who already have an education can help me with the ones who don't. I'll be pleased to have your help, Miss—" She broke off. "What is your name?"(TPL, Page 20)

b. Phenomenal Field

Reformism activities make the experience for her. Over the years she is former, she is a woman who is more soft and friendly to everyone. She is friendlier to everyone and she is more maintaining decency toward others. She feels happy to help people unable to resolve the problem. Experience taught Sara to be better. The experiences she got were valuable lesson.

"More hapless women forced into virtual prostitution for daring to steal bread for their children." She leaned forward, stirred by moral outrage. "These convict women are being sent to a foreign land for the slightest of offenses, merely because Australia needs more women." (TPL, Page 5)

c. Self

Sara is a lady of Earl of Blackmore. She is disguised as a teacher to teach the prisoners on the ship Chastity. When she begins to interact to the people who are on the ship chastity, she can interact with other. Many people felt enjoy with Sara and many people felt need her. That is one good result of the interaction in her new environment. Her gentleness and kindness make people more comfortable.

"Come on, lad, that's enough prittle-prattle," shouted a coarse voice from above, cutting him off. "Tell them to be up here at once. Captain Horn wants the lot of them to present themselves on deck now or risk his wrath!"

The sound of that menacing voice sent the women into a frenzy.
(TPL, Page 47)

D. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the chapter III and IV, the study comes to following conclusion, as follow. First, in *The Pirate Lord* novel (1998) Sabrina Jeffries wants to convey the message of this novel. The message is "the people effort to get freedom of miscarriage of justice". It is based on reality in Sara Willis life when she joins in Woman Comitte. It can be seen

from Sara Willis's effort to do her job as a reformer. Based on the structural element, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme are related to each other. So, it can tell the story of the novel clearly.

Second, this novel contain many facts that are revealed by Sabrina Jeffries which reflect being, existence before essence, cogito, freedom, anxiety, transcendence of ego, nothingness in the life of Sara Willis. All of them involve in the process of Sara Willis to become a reformist. She has existence from her job and her status as a Lady in England. Third, the researcher takes an issue of the self in order to more specific. The thrash about the self reflected in Sara Willis's character. She fulfills three characters of the self. The behavior of Sara Willis can be change because the interaction between organism, phenomenal field, and phenomenal self.

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