

**QUEST FOR MEANING OF LIFE IN THE LOVE AFFAIR REFLECTED
IN JOE WRIGHT'S ANNA KARENINA MOVIE (2012): EXISTENTIAL
PERSPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor
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Alma Agnesya Rukmana

QUEST FOR MEANING OF LIFE IN THE LOVE AFFAIR REFLECTED IN JOE WRIGHT'S ANNA KARENINA MOVIE (2012): EXISTENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Abstrak

Artikel ini bertujuan menunjukkan makna hidup karakter Anna didalam kehidupan a love affair didalam movie Anna Karenina yang didirekturi oleh Joe Wright dan ditayangkan pada tahun 2012, fokus artikel ini adalah quest for meaning of life didalam kehidupan a love affair yang dilakukan oleh tokoh utama Anna didalam adegan movie ketika ia memutuskan untuk melakukan a love affair. Pilihan tersebut akan menjadi proses Anna dalam mencari makna hidupnya. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori eksistensialisme seperti yang telah disebutkan sebelumnya. Sumber yang digunakan dalam artikel ini adalah movie Anna Karenina (2012), jurnal yang pernah meneliti novel maupun film Anna Karenina sebelumnya, dan sumber lain. Hasil dari artikel ini adalah makna hidup Anna merupakan hidup bersama Vronsky walaupun ia harus melakukan a love affair, Anna mengambil keputusan tersebut berdasarkan pilihannya sendiri yang menandai existensinya.

Kata Kunci: pencarian makna hidup, kehidupan perselingkuhan, eksistensialisme, Anna Karenina (2012)

Abstract

This article aimed to show quest for meaning of life of Anna's character in a love affair in the Anna Karenina movie directed by Joe Wright and aired in 2012, the focus of this article is a quest for meaning of life in the life of a love affair carried out by the main character Anna in the scene. Movie when he decided to have a love affair. This choice will be Anna's process in a quest for meaning in her life. The theory used is the theory of existentialism, as previously mentioned. The sources used in this article are the movie Anna Karenina (2012), journals that have yet researched Anna Karenina's novels and films, and other sources. This article's result is that the meaning of Anna's life is living with Vronsky even though she has to have a love affair. Anna makes this decision based on her own choice, which marks her existence.

Keywords: the quest of life, a love affair, existentialism, Anna Karenina (2012)

1. INTRODUCTION

The latest version of Anna Karenina's film, released in 2012 directed by Joe Wright and a script written by Tom Stoppard, is one of the literary works adapted from the best-selling novel of the same name, Anna Karenina and written by Leo Tolstoy, which is one of Russian writer who has been recognized by writers. This film has been released twice. In the previous version released in 1997, the author uses the latest version of this film, released in

2012. There is a novel version. Anna Karenina's novel is one of the best seller novels that has been repeatedly published. The author takes one of the film's issues about a quest for the meaning of life experienced by Anna Karenina to choose to have an affair. In the end, she leaves her family comfortable and filled with luxury. Anna Karenina film is one of the famous films that made this film much in demand by writers to examine it. Some previous studies have examined Anna Karenina's literary work on film versions and novel versions. (Perdana, 2019; Wenanda, 2018) they are

using gender stereotypes. (Giraldi, 2014; Jefferey, 2015; Morson, 2015; Nofiasari, 2018) also have something in common, namely discussing morality. (Gurina, 2018; Imansari & Christinawati, 2015) are focuses on differences and similarities. (Widyawati, 2018) analyzes social justice. (Duwit, 2018) analyzes affixes. (Gessen, 2014) about translation reviews from several translators. (Roberts, 2011) comparison between the two novels. (Adhani, 2018) concept of love. (Saxena, n.d.) used method reader response. (Foster, 2015) abigious implication.

Of the various examples of research above, many discuss multiple topics and problems. The authors find that the issues raised by previous researchers have the advantage of the problems and approaches used in this study have not been studied before. The writer will use the theory of existentialism, which will connect the various reasons for Anna to decide the process of a quest for the meaning of her life. Multiple scenes, dialogue, and back sound used in this research will strengthen and clarify the reasons shown in the Anna Karenina Film (2012). This distinguishes this study from previous research, the author will focus on searching for the meaning of Anna's life in the life of a love affair, and the author will discuss a love affair. Because there has been no previous research that explains the search for the meaning of life, there must be clear information searching for life that occurs in a love affair. The choice of choices taken from an individual perspective is not a bad thing because it is explained in existentialism.

Therefore, the writer raises this issue, which will present various scenes that show the process of finding the meaning of Anna's life. If Anna can choose what she wants without hearing or seeing other people's opinions, she has proven her existence. This article will show some love affair indicators, the depicted of a love affair in films. For the last point, the address of the reason for quest for the meaning of Joe Wright in a love relationship and all of these points will relate to an existentialperspective.

This article raises issues that will be related to an existential perspective. This article will focus on characters who have a love affair, respectful character, and affected character. Every event that happens always shows someone is faced with a choice. The choice can to be good or bad, easy or difficult, hard work or relax, as in the film Anna Karenina (2012), which shows that Anna is always faced with choices, the choice she chose to leave her family and live with Vronsky even though in the end she decided to end his life. All of that is a description of a person's existence in living his life. This is very much in line with the theory of existentialism, which argues that

life is a choice that is essentially determined by himself without considering others' opinions. In this context, choices are made from an individualist perspective, but this is a real thing because all the effects of the choices made will be borne by the person making the decision himself.

2. METHOD

The film *Anna Karenina* is a film directed by Joe Wright, adapted by Tom Stoppard as a remake of the movie with the same title in 1997 and the adaptation of one of the famous novelist Leo Tolstoy entitled "*Anna Karenina*." This film is a British historical romantic, dramatic genre adapted from a novel that tells the story of life with a Russian imperial background in 1874. This film is set like a theatre stage. This article uses a qualitative research method. The author considers this theory suitable for this article because it explains more or describes something implied or explicit. The process takes precedence over results, uses direct data sources, and the analysis used is inductive. The object used in this research is the quest for the meaning of life carried out by Anna Karenina, who is also the main character in this film is dealing with the various choices she faces. In this case, Anna met the choices when Anna was in the situation of a love affair.

The data used in this article are in the form of words, phrases, and paragraphs that can explain the dialogue, images from scene capture in the film, and audio or back sound that explains the issues the writer wants to convey in this article. The data obtained will be used as a sample of this study, and then this data is divided into two groups, namely primary and secondary data. The preliminary data of this research is the film *Anna Karenina*, which aired in 2012. Secondary data is all data related to the author's issue in this article, which is in the movie *Anna Karenina*, such as previous studies associated with Wright's and websites' interviews. To analyze the data that has been obtained, the writer must use several steps to get the desired data. The first step in data collection is data reduction. The data acquired will be collected and analyzed; then, it is concluded that the data used is appropriate or not to be sampled. The second step is the data display. After the data is filtered, the information is then rearranged to get the correct data. The last step is discussing drawing, namely, verification of data. The data is arranged into a series of words or paragraphs that readers easily understand to avoid questions that will arise in the minds of readers.

This study takes an issue quest for the meaning of Anna's life. Anna's character is faced with choices where all choices have different impacts. This time the author wants the case that Anna faces in the search for the meaning of life in choosing every decision in the life of a love affair. A practical perspective for this case, the authors conclude that an existential viewpoint will be suitable because this approach explains how each choice will affect a person's life.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

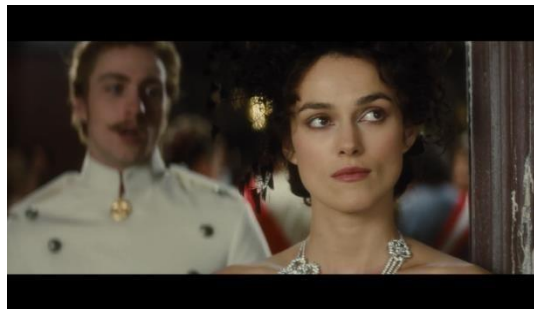
3.1 Finding

3.1.1 Indicators of a love affair in Anna Karenina(2012) by Joe Wright

A love affair is when a couple has a sexual relationship without being based on a marriage relationship and is carried out in secret (Cambridge dictionary). A love affair is one of the issues raised in the film Anna Karenina (2012). A love affair has several indicators that indicate the existence of a love affair.

1) The physical attraction with the person who is not his/her partner

Anna feels attracted to Vronsky, so that Anna always looks for Vronsky's whereabouts wherever Anna believes that Vronsky is attending the same place.



Picture 1. The physical attraction

2) Extramarital relationship

Anna has a relationship with Vronsky without being based on a marriage relationship when she is still Alexei's wife. The relationship between Anna and Vronsky has taken a serious stage because they have had sexual relations.

3) Undercover

Anna and Vronsky cover their relationship in front of others. This can be seen when Anna and Vronsky always meet in quiet places without anyone else around them.



Picture 2. Undercover

4) Affection for a person other than ones partner

Anna pays more attention to Vronsky than Alexei, who is her husband. This is evidenced by Anna showing excessive emotions when Vronsky is involved in an accident during a race and the people change their focus to Anna.



Picture 3. Affection for a person

5) Emotional closeness

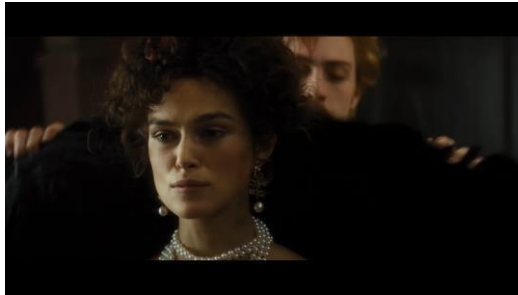
Anna shows emotional closeness to Vronsky when you choose to have Vronsky stay with her and not choose to be transferred to distant territories. Vronsky confirms Anna's feelings by asking questions, and finally they know how they feel.



Picture 4. Emotional closeness

6) Feeling guilty

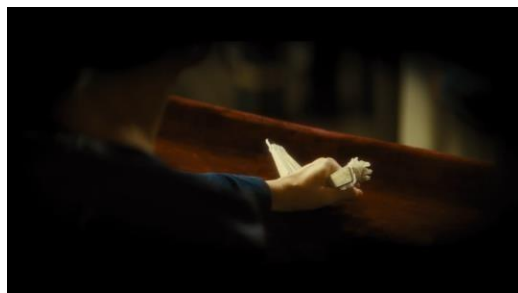
Anna feels guilty when she refuses to admit that she likes Vronsky. Apart from feeling guilty for Vronsky, Anna also felt guilty for her son because she had to leave the child she loved so much with Alexei if she wanted to be with Vronsky. And the dialogue also shows that Anna feels guilty.



Picture 5. Feeling guilty

7) Being emotional

Anna shows being emotional to Vronsky, this can be seen when Anna watches the horse race that Vronsky is following at the start of the show, and Anna has shown excessive emotions.



Picture 6. Being emotional

8) Comparing his/her partner with other people

Anna has a growing interest in Vronsky. The more she feels attracted to Vronsky, the more Anna often compares Alexei and Vronsky. Vronsky makes Anna realize the things she doesn't get when she is with Alexei, mostly because Vronsky feels loved. Vronsky cared about Anna's behavior, while Alexei was more focused on his job so that he couldn't care for his child. Meanwhile, Vronsky's treatment of Anna makes Anna feel that there is a difference when she is with Vronsky and when Anna is with Alexei.

3.2 Discussion

A quest for the meaning of life is something that must happen to someone alive. Humans will always look for the importance of their lives. Humans will be more interested in the meaning of their lives when faced with situations they have never felt before. A love affair is a situation that can be handled by humans who have had severe relationships (marital relations) and are in relationships with other people. This situation will occur according to the choices made by themselves. A love affair has several supporting indicators, as explained in the finding section. These indicators are indicators of a love affair seen in *Anna Karenina* (2012), which was carried out by Anna and Vronsky when having a love affair.

As seen in the indicator of a love affair, Anna has a love affair showing that Anna wants to show her existence by choosing a love affair to be with Vronsky, which is the meaning of her life. Anna has decided to make decisions based on her own choices without considering others' opinions; this is explained in the existential perspective that there is the freedom to choose. All decisions made in human life will be borne by the human being himself.

A love affair depicted in the movie *Anna Karenina* (2012) is seen from the various scene starting from characters, setting, events, and expression of love. Characters include three, are a love affair doers, which represented by Anna and Vronsky, respectful character portrayed by Alexei, Levin, and society, and the last affected character of a love affair represented by Alexei, Kitty, and Seriozha.

Anna and Vronsky are love affair doers, and they do a love affair because it is based on mutual attraction. Alexei is a respectful character because he has shown respect for Anna as Alexei keeps protecting Anna when Anna shows inappropriate public emotions. Levin becomes a respectful character because he also respects Kitty and does not impose his love for Kitty, who is engaged to Vronsky. Affected characters are characters who are affected because of the love affair between Anna and Vronsky. These characters are Alexei, Kitty, and Seriozha.

Anna made all decisions based on her own choice without considering others' opinions, even though Alexei Anna warned Anna to stick with her choice. Anna has shown her existence. Anna's options are the correct choices because, in the existential perspective, it is known as the freedom to choose. Freedom to choose is the freedom to make choices and the best option is the choice made based on one's own choice without any interference from other people. All human

decisions affect that effect will be the responsibility of the human itself.

So Anna has found a quest for meaning in her life. The meaning of Anna's life is living with Vronsky by having a love affair and showing its existence. This is proven when Anna chose to end her life when she felt that she lost Vronsky.

As the director of the movie *Anna Karenina* (2012), Joe Wright shows the addressing quest of meaning in a love affair seen from several interviews he conducted in 2012. From these interviews, it can be concluded that Wright is very interested in searching for the meaning of life in a love affair situation, such as what happened to Anna's character in the film. Wright also stated that his interest in making films based on novels made him feel anxious.

4. CLOSING

This article uses an existential perspective, which the author feels is suitable for this article because it contains a quest for meaning in life. Search for life is evident in the main character's life journey in the film *Anna Karenina* (2012), who is faced with a love affair situation. A love affair is a situation that can occur in married couples who are related to other than their partners.

First, a love affair has several indicators. Some of these indicators can be seen in various scenes and dialogues between players. The writer argues that Anna, who is a character who has a love affair, does this, which makes the process of finding meaning in life. One of Anna's reasons for doing a love affair is because she was dissatisfied with Alexei, which makes Anna compare Alexei and Vronsky, which is one indicator of a love affair.

Second, the depiction of a love affair can be seen from various aspects, namely: characters, setting, events, and expressing of a love affair. Multiple scenes and dialogues between players describe a love affair well, and the supporting audio or back sound makes it clearer to describe the atmosphere that occurs in the movie. The tempo's choice is also sensitive to the audience's emotions, which makes audio a good supporting instrument in the depiction atmosphere.

For the last, Wright's address about the quest for meaning in a love affair is shown explicitly in several interviews he conducted. Wright always chose the story; he would pick it up according to his choice. Wright showed his interest in the quest for meaning by bringing up *Anna Karenina*'s story with this theme.

A quest for the meaning of life in a love affair is one of the issues in the movie *Anna Karenina* (2012). The writer considers Anna's every behavior as a character who does a love affair doing a love affair as a process of looking for a quest for the meaning of life in her life. A love affair is a final choice he chooses to show the existence and purpose of his life. Anna has demonstrated her presence from the various options she has made, and she has been shown multiple aspects of existentialism such as consciousness, freedom to choose, anxiety, and nothingness.

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