

ABSTRACT

F.X. DONO SUNARDI (2003): *The Significance of the Character Development of Jean-Paul Sartre toward his Coming to Existentialism as Seen in his Autobiography The Words*. Yogyakarta: Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This thesis discusses Jean-Paul Sartre's autobiography entitled *The Words* (1964). Jean-Paul Sartre is a prominent figure in philosophy as well as in literature. His philosophy, labeled as existentialism, has greatly influenced the way modern man views his life; meanwhile his writings are great contributions to the world's literature. His honest and frank view on the existence of human being was undeniably the result of his own experiences during his lifetime, particularly his childhood as told in *The Words*. This thesis tries to find the significance of Sartre's character development as seen in *The Words* toward his coming to the idea of existentialism.

In order to find that significance, there are two problem formulations that have been set up. They are: (1) how does Jean-Paul Sartre present the development of his character in *The Words*?; and (2) what is the significance of the character development of Jean-Paul Sartre as presented in *The Words* toward his coming to existentialism? The answers to the problems will be the essence and the goal of this thesis.

Acquiring answers to the problems means acquiring a deeper and better understanding on how the character development of an autobiography, in this case of Jean-Paul Sartre, leads him hold a certain philosophy or system of thought, labeled as existentialism.

The method applied in making this thesis is mainly library research method, which provides abundant resources and information on Sartre, existentialism, and his contemporary. Despite the great numbers of resources, most of them are dealing with Sartre's philosophy and only a small numbers of them concerns with the way Sartre came to the existentialism. Since *The Words* is an autobiography, the approach to it entails going beyond the text. As autobiography, it presents Sartre's self-totalization seen from his then present with its symbolic truth. It also contains fact and fiction. In order to get the truth of Sartre, the reference to another writings on the life of Sartre is needed.

This thesis concludes that the character development of Jean-Paul Sartre did influence his coming to existentialism. It was his experiences, particularly the early death of his father, the figure of his grandfather, and his deep involvement in the world of literature, which led him to hold such a view on human existence that is classified as existentialism. The pessimistic and absurd tone of Sartre's existentialism rooted in his experiences.

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Skripsi ini membahas karya otobiografi Jean-Paul Sartre yang berjudul *The Words* (1964). Jean-Paul Sartre merupakan seorang tokoh filsafat sekaligus kesusasteraan yang terkemuka. Filsafatnya yang disebut eksistensialisme telah memberi pengaruh yang besar terhadap cara manusia modern memahami eksistensi hidupnya; sementara tulisan-tulisannya juga merupakan sumbangan yang besar bagi dunia sastra. Pandangannya terhadap eksistensi manusia yang jujur dan terus-terang tidak dapat dibantah lagi adalah bentukan dari seluruh pengalaman hidupnya, terutama pengalaman masa kecilnya sebagaimana dikisahkan dalam *The Words*. Skripsi ini berusaha menelaah arti penting perkembangan karakter Jean-Paul Sartre seperti dituturkan dalam *The Words* bagi eksistensialismenya.

Untuk menemukan arti penting tersebut, telah disusun dua buah rumusan masalah, yaitu: (1) bagaimana Jean-Paul Sartre menuturkan perkembangan karakter dirinya dalam *The Words*?; dan (2) apa arti penting dari perkembangan karakter Jean-Paul Sartre tersebut bagi eksistensialisme? Jawaban atas permasalahan tersebut merupakan esensi dan tujuan penulisan skripsi ini.

Dengan mendapatkan jawaban tersebut berarti diperoleh pemahaman yang lebih baik dan mendalam tentang pengaruh perkembangan karakter dalam suatu otobiografi, dalam hal ini perkembangan karakter Sartre, yang mendorongnya menganut suatu paham filsafat eksistensialisme.

Metode utama yang digunakan dalam penulisan skripsi ini adalah metode studi pustaka. Studi pustaka menyediakan sumber informasi dalam jumlah yang cukup seputar Sartre, eksistensialisme, dan tokoh-tokoh sezamannya. Namun demikian, sebagian terbesar dari sumber tersebut hanya membahas filsafat Sartre. Hanya terdapat sedikit tulisan yang menelaah bagaimana Sartre dapat sampai pada eksistensialisme. Mengingat *The Words* adalah suatu otobiografi, pendekatannya bersifat lintas atau keluar teks. *The Words* merupakan totalisasi-pribadi yang dilakukan dengan kacamata Sartre pada kurun waktu tertentu yang menampilkan kebenaran secara simbolis. Karya ini mengandung di dalamnya kandungan fiksi dan fakta sehingga untuk mendapatkan kebenaran informasi tentang Sartre, diperlukan sumber-sumber eksternal lain.

Analisis dalam skripsi ini membuktikan bahwa perkembangan karakter Jean-Paul Sartre memang berpengaruh terhadap eksistensialismenya. Pengalaman masa lalu, terutama kematian ayahnya ketika ia masih kecil, sosok kakeknya, dan kegemarannya akan sastra, mendorongnya untuk memiliki pandangan terhadap eksistensi yang sangat khas. Nada pesimis dan absurd dalam eksistensialisme Sartre memang berakar pada pengalamannya.