

ABSTRACT

SINISUKA, BRIAN ALEXANDER. (2026). **Paul Atreides in Frank Herbert's *Dune*: A Sartrean Exploration of the Tension between Free Will and Determinism.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

Dune is a science fiction novel written by Frank Herbert. The novel presents Paul Atreides as a character whose life is shaped by political conflict, religious expectation, inherited responsibility, and prescient visions of the future. These conditions place Paul in a struggle between forces that seem to determine his life and the choices he must still make. This study examines Paul's struggle through Sartrean existentialism, especially the tension between free will and determinism.

There are three problems formulated in this study: (1) How is Paul Atreides characterized in Frank Herbert's *Dune*? (2) What conflicts are experienced by Paul Atreides in the novel? (3) How do Paul Atreides's responses to these conflicts reflect the Sartrean tension between free will and determinism?

This study used library research. The primary source was Frank Herbert's *Dune*. The secondary sources included books and studies on characterization, conflict, and Sartrean existentialism. Murphy's theory of characterization was used to analyze Paul's characteristics. The theories of conflict by Johnson and Arp and Kenney were used to examine Paul's conflicts. Sartre's existentialist philosophy was used to analyze Paul's responses.

The analysis finds that Paul is characterized as disciplined, analytical, and reserved. These characteristics shape the way he responds to conflict. Paul experiences existential conflict, conflict of agency, conflict of action, and metaphysical conflict. His responses show that although his life is shaped by prophecy, inheritance, prescience, and political forces, he still has to choose how to act. Through Paul, *Dune* shows that freedom does not mean the absence of limitation, but the responsibility to choose within those limitations.

Keywords: determinism, *Dune*, free will, Paul Atreides, Sartrean existentialism

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Dune adalah novel fiksi ilmiah yang ditulis oleh Frank Herbert. Novel ini menggambarkan Paul Atreides sebagai tokoh yang kehidupannya dibentuk oleh konflik politik, harapan keagamaan, tanggung jawab warisan, dan penglihatan tentang masa depan. Kondisi-kondisi tersebut menempatkan Paul dalam pergulatan antara kekuatan yang seolah menentukan hidupnya dan pilihan-pilihan yang tetap harus ia buat. Penelitian ini menganalisis pergulatan Paul melalui eksistensialisme Sartrean, terutama ketegangan antara kehendak bebas dan determinisme.

Terdapat tiga rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini: (1) Bagaimana Paul Atreides digambarkan dalam novel *Dune* karya Frank Herbert? (2) Konflik apa saja yang dialami oleh Paul Atreides dalam novel tersebut? (3) Bagaimana respons Paul Atreides terhadap konflik-konflik tersebut mencerminkan ketegangan antara kehendak bebas dan determinisme dalam pandangan Sartre?

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka. Sumber utama penelitian ini adalah novel *Dune* karya Frank Herbert. Sumber sekunder yang digunakan meliputi buku dan penelitian tentang karakterisasi, konflik, dan eksistensialisme Sartrean. Teori karakterisasi Murphy digunakan untuk menganalisis karakteristik Paul. Teori konflik dari Johnson dan Arp serta Kenney digunakan untuk menganalisis konflik Paul. Filsafat eksistensialisme Sartre digunakan untuk menganalisis respons Paul terhadap konflik-konflik tersebut.

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Paul digambarkan sebagai tokoh yang disiplin, analitis, dan tertutup. Karakteristik tersebut membentuk caranya merespons konflik. Paul mengalami konflik eksistensial, konflik agensi, konflik tindakan, dan konflik metafisik. Respons Paul menunjukkan bahwa meskipun hidupnya dibentuk oleh ramalan, warisan, presains, dan kekuatan politik, ia tetap harus memilih bagaimana ia bertindak. Melalui Paul, *Dune* menunjukkan bahwa kebebasan tidak berarti hidup tanpa batasan, tetapi tanggung jawab untuk tetap memilih di dalam batasan tersebut.

Kata kunci: determinism, *Dune*, free will, Paul Atreides, Sartrean existentialism