

# The Representative of Human in Novel “Cala IBI” and “The Alchemist” (Perspective of Existentialism Philosophy in XIX Century: Mazhab Sören Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855))

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*Abstract—Studying the literature work from philosophical aspect may bring about essential truth about the meaning of life. The argumentation of what, how, and why the life of human being is like depicted by the novelist Nurkila Amal and Paulo Coelho in existentialism perspective Sören Aabye Kierkegaard; is the searching of the nature of human existence itself, such as the meaning of life that prefers the silence to benefit the freedom (“Cala Ibi”), and the meaning of life that is not able to encounter God but to chase the dream of treasure (“The Alchemist”). Both of these choices, are the form of the representative of the expression of human being’s existence that has freedom without recognizing, and always resisting the habitual or regularity (established), free to choose by their own will, and aware of their responsibility in the future.*

*Keyword: Novel, Human Existence, Existentialism Sören Aabye Kierkegaard*

## I. INTRODUCTION

The study of literature as knowledge, and literature as a creative process, counting on language as the media of expression. Expressing the real and the unreal, experience, present and even forecasting the future, as in *Le Marriage de Figaro* by Pierre Augustin Caron (1784) that forecasts the break of France Revolution 1789, *The Cherry Orchard* (Vishnyvy Sad) by Anton Chekhov (1904) that forecast the break of Russian Revolution 1917, and *Heartbreak House* by Shaw (1919) that forecasts the World War II 1939 (Soekito, 1984:49,115).

Appreciating and interpreting the literary work that expresses something (meaningful, not an emptiness) requires effort to think, feeling and imagination. Thinking, to find the answer; feeling, to develop awareness; and imagining, for a freedom to present ‘new reality’.

Theoretically, literary work can be defined from either extrinsic or intrinsic point of view (Wellek & Warren, 1989:77,155). Especially for the extrinsic, philosophy is one of the discipline (besides sociology, psychology, politics and others) that can be utilized to assist the “study” of finding literary meaning. As in contrast, through more communicative literary language, fresh and alive, philosophy can help in expressing its reflection over experience that live the life in its meaning and value (Sutrisno, 1995:18).

Literature and philosophy; essentially, both of the do have same profound foundation, that is reality. Reality that is comprehended and developed from a truth, the truth that ends to the comprehension of the meaning of life. The comprehension towards life, is such a real truth. Religious truth, philosophy, science and literature. Literary and philosophical truth, has their own reality. Reality in literature is imaginatively proceed through creative process and expressed by aesthetic language; while the reality in philosophy is the reflection of the existence and experience of human that later be abstracted, to found its nature from rationality slot and logic through reason.

Literature is appreciated and interpreted based on perspective of varied branches of philosophy as determinism, phenomenology, existentialism etc. utilizing the philosophy, is the effort to reveal meaning such as great thoughts that specially covered (Wellek & Warren, 1989:134). One of the philosophy that can be used pertaining to literature discussion (novel), is existentialism philosophy.

Existentialism is a type of philosophy that focusses of human as individual, responsible to his free will without deeply consider the one which considered right and wrong. One of existentialism adherent aware that truth is relative, and by that each individual has free will to decide what is right in his point of view. The core of existentialism is making decision based on one’s will, and aware of the responsibility in the future.

Existentialism philosophy has been developing over centuries with different overview, between Descartes (1596M-650M) in XVII century, Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) in XVIII century, Sören Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855) in XIX century, and Jean Paul Sartre (1905-1980) in XX century.

“Cala Ibi” and “The Alchemist” are literature work (novel) that was written in different ages, places, and novelists. The excess of this novel “The Alchemist” is, it was written by the creative and productive novelist, has good reputation proven by the translation of this novel into over 56 languages, sold out over 11 million copies; while “Cala Ibi” is the first novel by Nukila Amal that was directly nominated as biggest five by Equator Literary Award 2003 (Amal, 2004). A novel that brings up reactions and argumentations. Reaction of half of readers stated that the novel was unsuccessful for it is boring that it is difficult to comprehend. On the other hand, positive argumentation was also addressed to the existence of the novel, as Bambang Sugiharto, that “Cala Ibi” is one of the top of the latest Indonesian literature; Goenawan Mohamad, “Cala Ibi” is one of the top trends of latest literary work. ([http://www.gramediaishop.com/PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2003](http://www.gramediaishop.com/PT_Gramedia_Pustaka_Utama,2003)); Melani Budiarta, and Nirwan Dewanto praises Nukila Amal as different novelist from former generation (<http://www.nabble.com/-sastra-pembebasan--Mencari-Ruang-Simbolik-Manneke-Budiman-td17526840.html> May 29, 2008).

Apart from varied of reasons appeared for these two novels, it will be more interesting to be analysed relating to the human existence in the perspective of existentialism philosophy mazhab Sören Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855) in XIX century.

Existentialism philosophy Sören Aabye Kierkegaard is an authentic existence (Tjaya, 2002:83; Hardiman, 2007:250) that leads into three existential dimension, namely 1) aesthetic dimension, 2) ethics or ethical dimension, and 3) religious dimension. *Aesthetic dimension*, can be defined as an attempt to define and comprehend live without focusing to the good and the evil, sensory and emotional encouragement, satisfied, unsatisfied, free, spontaneous, contains the art value and that is the form of beauty that is relative. *Ethics or ethical dimension*; is the form of action that is categorized as good and evil, free yet still adapting the actions by the moral standard, able to rule and recognize himself, have the ability to value himself, immanent, as every action that is in responsibility and that is the moral form. *Religious dimension*; is the form of the awareness and freedom that have limitation, which is freedom that needs relationship with God. God is absolute, absolute and cannot be measured by reasoning power of human being. Two religious meaning in these dimensions are (1) attempt to reach the happiness from God without giving concern to the wrong action (sin), and (2) the happiness from God that cannot be directly gained, but the happiness that can only be gained after going through suffer. The core point is the repentance.

## II. DISCUSSION

“Cala Ibi” presents multi-dimension of problems about the existence of human and nature. The life of human, pertaining to individual (love and lifestyle), family, social, culture, and other science; while the nature, is pictured as something which is wealthy and beauty, yet becomes the source of trade, and the increasing of society of Halmahera Island, moreover, destruction. Same as “The Alchemist”. A novel written by Paulo Coelho also presents multi-dimension problems about the existence of human and nature. Human’s life, in relation to different individual, between Santiago in “The Alchemist” that owns the ambition to obtain the treasure, has the tendency of materialistic (Pg. 8), love (Pg. 11) with the real Maya, dreaming and presenting the figure of the absurd Maia in black-and-white dream (Pg. 17). Nukila Amal puts forward fold character in “Cala Ibi”.

“The Alchemist” besides setting forth personal issue, it also points the issue of family, social, culture, and science. Nature is a natural setting that is pictured as a beautiful place, yet dangerous in dessert (Pg. 100)

The author Nukila amal and Paulo Coelho do have same philosophical foundation in these novels, which is existentialism. Freedom without recognizing, and always resistant to the habitual or regularity (*established*) is reflected in “Cala Ibi” and “The Alchemist”. Freedom to create the character of the story, plot, perspective, and literary technique that has no rule, so that everything is absurd (Nukila, 2004); and the Paulo Coelho’s freedom to create the character of Santiago that resists and rises against the will of his parents by refusing from becoming a Pastor, in and out of the seminary for he was not able to find God, counting on worldliness was more important than knowing God and studying the sin of human, leaving the job as the son of shepherd and chasing the dream of treasure (Paulo Coelho, 2009) is the realization that human has free will to decide based on his own longing, and aware of his responsibility in the future.

“Cala Ibi” and “The Alchemist” put forward three existential dimensions mazhab Sören Aabye Kierkegaard, namely:

### 1. Aesthetic Dimension

Real character of Maya in “Cala Ibi” is a name that used to be called from Maya Amanita, the combination of name that was given by her father and his colleagues from England. The metaphor of Maya Amanita (Maya) arises the dissatisfaction to the owner of the name, yet, it is meaningful to the parents who name their child by that name. Protest appointed to the character of Maya is reasonable. The following is the quote from the story.

“My name consists many of m and a letter, M-a-y-a A-m-a-n-i-t-a. I am glad to read the whole of it. ... Both names greet one another, thickening each other, melted, strong in my shape; a poisonous mushroom that does not really exist. Why was that my

name, why was mushroom my name and not menor, poisonous and it can kill people, I do not understand. Why did I look not really real, only seen by the eyes, pop out from the mind, - realm of poisonous thought, as the dangerous mushroom – I do not understand, ...” (Pg. 6).

Friendship that has been built between Maya’s parents and an England’s, is show by Nukila Amal as the form of harmonic and impressive relationship, and it is proven by the naming from the colleague to the daughter (Maya). Unlike the character of Santiago in “The Alchemist”. The character that is called as the son of a shepherd does not mind the name given by the parents, but the stance is shown that the freedom of making decision is a private right. The following is the quote from the story.

“The son decides to spend a night there. He assures that whole sheep come in through the broken gate of the fence, then he put crossbar on the fence by pieces of plank, so that the sheep will not walk out at night” (Pg. 7).

Santiago’s freedom is a freedom that responsible, the sheep are assured gathered, and protected. An encouragement to protect and save them. Santiago is a sheep lover. Sheep in form of animal, and Santiago in form of human have understood one another. Both of them do have the satisfaction. The following is the quote from the story.

“They are satisfied by only having meal and water, and as retain, they will give their wool their friendship and – often – their flesh” (Pg. 12).

Freedom that spontaneously appears.

Nukila through the Maya expresses her dissatisfaction towards the culture that attaches, and relates the family name, while praising Javanese culture that does not use family name. To Maya, one name is enough. The following is the quote from the story.

“I have never wanted to refer myself from my name, see me through my name. Blissful the Javanese. How lucky they are There is no need to own family name, do not have to put family in it” (Pg. 7).

Javanese people only use one name. The refuse of Maya by comparing the cultural condition requires the family name, while on the other side, there is region that allows people to have no family name, cannot be blamed but justified.

Through dream Maya becomes Maia. With the dragon, Maia is in illogic space and time, beyond reason. A dragon namely Cala Ibi, can fly, speak, moreover understand the wish of its friend, Maia. Presenting the figure as in the story is Nukila Amal’s freedom that is difficult to be understood and comprehended, although on the other side, the experimental figures show the real world and the actual happenings. Such as: Cala Ibi flies with Maia and witnesses the what is happening in Jakarta, and Halmahera Island, forest and fascinating mounts (Pg. 31-35).

The absurd Maia is helped by Cala Ibi to see what she wants to see, yet, to Santiago, wanting something is surely helped by the universe. The following is the quote from the story.

“If you have desire for something, the whole universe will unite to help you get that” (Pg. 54).

Having desire of certain thing is the form of there is no limit. Freedom will be helpful to emerge creativity. The universe is a symbol of a great power to obtain the unlimited. If Santiago powerfully emerge to reach the freedom, Maia that shows up through Maya’s rea dream wants silence so that people can experience freedom. The following is the quote from the story.

“For the universe is quiet. So silence to your ear. Silence is always too wonderful to be tortured by human voice” (Pg. 43).

## 2. Ethics or Ethical Dimension

“Cala Ibi” has different background of culture that influences the ethics or attitude, with “The Alchemist”. The scope of the issue in “Cala Ibi” is relating to the ife of human being especially woman that faces herself, family, social condition, and Indonesian local culture; while “The Alchemist” prefers to highlight the background of foreign culture, out of Indonesia that influences ethics or attitude in the story.

Maya in “Cala Ibi”, in her childhood lives in harmonic environment of her family, to sleep, Poetry was heard by Maya, the bird song of Cala Ibi, and fairy tale by her mother [Oma] (Pg. 2-3). The routine took place in her past, by Nukila Amal was emerged in the story; while Santiago in “The Alchemist” is from a simple family of farmer, and in his childhood he already lived his life apart from his parents for he went to seminary to be a pastor [failed] (Pg.. 14). The background of farmer family triggered him to chase his dream to act rudely to the elder. The following is the quote from the story.

“But the elder wants to talk. He asks, what kind of book that the boy is reading. The boy was triggered to act rudely and move to another bench, but, by his father he was taught to show respect to the elders” (Pg. 25).

The teaching of respect the elders, had been planted ever since Santiago lived with his both parents. It is different with dialogue other character Maya in “Cala Ibi”. Quoted,

“It is simply stated the relationship between table manner and politic manner, enjoyable food and enjoyable life” (page 111).

Both politic and eat have a rule. Bad diet causes illness, then politic has a rule. Politic without norm causes imbalance.

#### 1. Religious Dimension

In this dimension, dominantly appear “The Alchemist” Santiago showed authentic appeared. Santiago makes himself calm down from his fear old woman Gipsi by prayer “Our Father in Heaven. Even though, this effort doesn’t start by an evil act or sins. Maya, showed the same thing as Santiago does, but Maya in “Cala Ibi” has a doubt for life. “Like a heaven”. (page. 43). Analogue heaven for happiness, to get the real happiness only by atonement. Maya’s doubt about her life is contradictory with Santiago’s life. Quoted,

“If God guide His lamb gently, so does human too” (page 47).

Santiago believes for his faith. He hasn’t a doubt but, certainty.

### III. CONCLUSION

“Cala Ibi” and “The Alchemist”, appeared multi dimension problems of human and nature’s life. Human’s life related to personality (love and lifestyle), family, social and Culture, and other sciences. Meanwhile, nature drawing as something rich and beautiful, being commerce, crescent of Halmahera Island, even destruction.

Same as “The Alchemist”, a novel written by Paulo Coelho showed multi dimension of problems of human and nature. Human’s life related to different personality between Santiago and “The Alchemist” who had ambition to get treasure, which is materialistic (page 8). Nature as a natural setting drawn as a beautiful place, but dangerous in desert (page 100).

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