

**DEFENDING SELF-EXISTENCE AND FREEDOM AS  
REFLECTED IN “LIFE OF PI” BY YANN MARTEL:  
AN EXISTENTIALISM APPROACH**

**THESIS**



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PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY  
2023**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
English Sarjana Sastra**



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**THESIS**


**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
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**The thesis has been approved to be examined on the date as indicated below**

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**Robby Satria, S.S., M.Hum.  
Supervisor**

## ABSTRAK

Eksistensialisme seringkali menjadi salah satu objek yang muncul dalam karya sastra dan dapat menjadi esensial dalam menganalisis karya sastra. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana tokoh utama mempertahankan eksistensi diri dan kebebasannya sebagaimana tercermin dalam novel “Life of Pi” karya Yann Martel. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori wacana eksistensialisme dari Bigelow (1961) dan kebebasan dalam eksistensialisme dari Sartre (2012). Eksistensialisme adalah studi tentang keberadaan, bagaimana diri sendiri mencoba menemukan makna dalam kehidupan yang tidak berarti. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Selanjutnya peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan untuk mengumpulkan data yang terdiri dari sumber data utama dan sumber data kedua dan metode analisis deskriptif untuk menganalisis data dengan menggunakan teori dari Ratna (2009). Terakhir, hasil penelitian akan ditampilkan dengan menggunakan teknik paradigma kualitatif yang dikemukakan oleh Creswell (2013) yang artinya hasil penelitian akan disajikan dengan menggunakan kata-kata dan kalimat. Hasil penelitian ini menemukan perjuangan dan prestasi tokoh utama dalam mempertahankan eksistensi dirinya, dapat disimpulkan bahwa perjuangan tokoh utama –Pi— berawal dari pencarian kebebasannya sendiri. Perjuangan yang dihadapi tokoh utama yang ditemukan adalah; keberadaan mendahului esensi, pengasingan atau keterasingan, ketakutan dan kecemasan berlebihan, dan perjumpaan dengan kehampaan. Pencapaian yang didapatkan melalui usahanya dalam mengatasi perjuangan adalah; pengakuan dan keaslian diri.

***Kata Kunci: pendekatan eksistensialisme, kebebasan, keberadaan diri.***

## ABSTRACT

Existentialism often becomes one of the prevalent object to exist in literary works and can be essential in analysing literary works. The aim of this research is to find out how main character defend his self-existence and freedom as reflected in “*Life of Pi*” novel by Yann Martel. This research used theory of existentialism discourses by Bigelow (1961) and freedom in existentialism by Sartre (2012). Existentialism is a study of existence, in how oneself tries to find a meaning in this meaningless life. The research method used in this research was descriptive qualitative. Afterwards, the researcher applied the method of library research to collect the data which consist of primary source and secondary source data source and the method of descriptive analysis to analyse the data by using the theory from Ratna (2009). Lastly, the result of the research will be presented using the technique of qualitative paradigm proposed by Creswell (2013) which means the result will be presented using words and sentences. The results of this research found main character struggles and achievement in defending his self-existence, it can be concluded that the main character –Pi— struggles came from its own search of freedom. The struggles faced by the main character found are; existence precedes essences, alienation or estrangement, fear and trembling anxiety, and the encounter with nothingness. its achievement is provided through his effort in overcoming the struggle which are; acknowledgement and self-authenticity.

**Keywords: existentialism approach, freedom, self-existence**

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Batam, 28 January 2023

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>TITLE PAGE</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>SURAT PERNYATAAN</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>DECLARATION OF THE THESIS ORIGINALITY</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>viii</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	<b>x</b>
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the Research .....	1
1.2 Identification of the Problem .....	6
1.3 Limitation of the Problem .....	6
1.4 Formulation of the Problem .....	7
1.5 Objectives of the Research.....	7
1.6 Significance of the Research.....	7
1.7 Definition of Key Terms .....	8
<b>CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK</b> .....	<b>10</b>
2.1 Existentialism Approach .....	10
2.1.1 Existentialism Discourses .....	12
2.1.1.1 Existence Precedes Essence .....	13
2.1.1.2 Alienation or Estrangement.....	14
2.1.1.3 Fear and Trembling Anxiety .....	15
2.1.1.4 The Encounter with Nothingness .....	16
2.1.2 Freedom in Existentialism .....	17
2.1.2.1 Acknowledgment .....	17
2.1.2.2 Self-authenticity .....	18
2.2 Previous Research .....	18
2.3 Theoretical Framework .....	22
<b>CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>24</b>
3.1 Research Design.....	24
3.2 Object of the Research .....	24
3.3 Method of Collecting Data.....	25
3.4 Method of Analysing Data .....	26
3.5 Method of Presenting Research Analysis .....	27
<b>CHAPTER IV RESEARCH ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>28</b>
4.1 Preliminary Analysis.....	28
4.1.1 Plot.....	28
4.1.2 Character and Characterisation.....	30
4.1.3 Settings .....	34
4.1.4 Theme .....	35
4.1.5 Point of View .....	36
4.2 Defending Self-existence and Freedom as Reflected in “Life Of Pi” by Yann Martel: An Existentialism Approach .....	37

4.2.1 The Struggles of The Main Character in Defending His Existence .....	37
4.2.1.1 Existence Precedes Essence .....	37
4.2.1.2 Alienation or Estrangement.....	39
4.2.1.3 Fear and Trembling Anxiety .....	40
4.2.1.4 The Encounter with Nothingness .....	41
4.2.2 The Achievements of The Main Character After Defending His Self- Existence.....	43
4.2.2.1 Acknowledgement.....	43
4.2.2.2 Self-authenticity .....	44
4.3 Findings.....	45
<b>CHAPTER V CONCLUSION &amp; SUGGESTION .....</b>	<b>46</b>
5.1 Conclusion .....	46
5.2 Recommendations .....	47

**REFERENCES**

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1. Data of the Research
- Appendix 2. Curriculum Vitae
- Appendix 3. Research Letter
- Appendix 4. Turnitin Result
- Appendix 5. LOA Journal
- Appendix 6. Turnitin Journal
- Appendix 7. BA Publikasi

## LIST OF FIGURES

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Figure 2. 1 Theoretical Framework.....</b>	<b>22</b>