

## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

Although literature and philosophy are two different disciplines, they still have a similarity because both of them are dealing with human life (Sutrisno 16). The discussion that exists in philosophy and literature comes from the real events that happen in human life. Those discussions will provide an insight or inspiration that will be shaped by human creativity in to written texts (Sutrisno 16). In this case, philosophy and literature are able to work together in order to form a writing. So, it means that everyone is possible to do philosophical analysis in literary works. *The Stranger* is one of the novels which contains some reviews of those philosophical values.

This chapter discusses about the existence of Meursault as the main character in *The Stranger* which applies the theory of existentialism and new criticism. In order to answer the statement of problem, the researcher divides the discussion into two parts; The first one will discuss the characterization of Meursault and the second will discuss how Meursault shows his existence when kills an Arab until he faces his punishment.

#### 3.1 Meursault's Characterization

This section discusses the character and characterization of Meursault. Meursault is the main character in *The Stranger* by Albert Camus. He becomes the main character because he always appears in every part of the story. It is accordance with Nurgiyantoro's statement (176), he states that the main character is an important character in a story that appears continually. Since Meursault described as the main character, automatically he also regarded as a









fate of Meursault in the future. It shows that Meursault is not dependent to others and capable of undergoing important condition alone.

### 3.1.5. Conditional

Meursault is described as a conditional person. Conditional is the surrender attitude toward condition, the surrender attitude is not absolute because it can be arranged by various terms and rules (<http://www.dictionary.com>). So, the conditional person is the person who will act in accordance with the condition or rule that he made. Meursault's portrayal of a conditional person can be seen through his speech while discussing with lawyers:

I promised, to satisfy him, but I explained that my physical condition at any given moment often influenced my feelings (pg 41).

The quotation shows two points that support the Meursault's portrayal as a conditional person. First, the phrase "my physical condition at any given moment often influenced my feelings" explains that Meursault is a person who is surrender or submissive with his physical need. Secondly, the word "but" not only as a conjunction for two sentences, the word "but" in the quotation also informs that Meursault gives a requirement. The requirement is Meursault's agreement to cooperate with the lawyer provided the lawyer is able to understand Meursault.

### 3.1.6. Materialist

Meursault is described as Materialist. Materialists is the people who is more concerned with material than spiritual, intellectual, or cultural value (<http://www.dictionary.com>). In other words, the materialist will measure every action he will do with the size of the material. Indirectly, Meursault's depiction as

materialist can be seen from his reason of rarely to visit his mother at nursing home:

That was why, during the last year, I seldom went to see her. Also, it would have meant losing my Sunday-getting to mention the trouble of going to the bus, getting my ticket, and spending two hours on the journey each way. "(Pg 5).

His mind explains that one of the reasons he does not want to visit his mother is because his reluctance to buying a ticket. It indicates that Meursault is more concerned with material than a sense of kinship. Another evidence that describes Meursault as materialist can be seen from his thought while dialogue with a chaplain in prison. When the chaplain asks about the kind of life which Meursault expects after death, Meursault thinks that the life he wants is life with a lot of money. It can be seen from the following quotation:

"No! No! I refuse to believe it. I'm sure you've often wished there was an afterlife." Of course I had, I told him. Everybody has that wish at times. But that had no more importance than wishing to be rich, or to swim very fast, or to have a better-shaped mouth. It was in the same order of things (pg 74).

The quotation explains that the most important thing for Meursault is wealth or material. The quotation also explains that Meursault does not believe on the afterlife or the judgment of God, he only sees a world that appear as the only real life. In other words, he does not believe in something that has no form/material.



not able to stay in his position because the weather is very hot, so he must make a move and find a shady place. Meursault's destination can be seen from his mind "*As I slowly walked toward the boulders at the end of the beach.*" (Pg 37). From the statement, it can be seen that Meursault goes to the rocks at the edge of the beach. Meursault chooses the place because he and his friends ever visit it, he knows that the place provides a shady place through the rocks' shadows, moreover the place also provides a healthy spring.

While Meursault almost reach the spot, he sees someone he does not expect. The man is an arab who has problem with Meursault and his friends. Not only the presence of the arab who interfere with Meursault, otherwise his presence also disturbs the arab. Although the arab is relaxing and using the shade, Meursault do not get away and choose to get closer. This situation can be seen from the following quotation:

It struck me that all I had to do was to turn, walk away, and think no more about it. But the whole beach, pulsing with heat, was pressing on my back. I took some steps toward the stream (pg 38).

The quotation also explains that Meursault is fully aware about the risk which is able to be happen if he and the arab stay close. Meursault's decision to come closer indicates his will to take over the place. Meursault's consciousness in accordance with Sunardi's explanation (104), he explains that will to power is the basic human motive and also the central point of ethics. Sunardi's statement explains that will to power is something that makes human understands the true purpose of every action he undertakes and then strives to preserve that goal for a better situation or condition.

But the condition becomes more difficult for Meursault to enjoy the place, it is because the arab threat Meursault in order to make him go away. The Arab draws his knife and pointing it toward Meursault, automatically this attitude makes the arab become an obstacle for Meursault to enjoy the place. Meursault, who is blocked by the arab's threat, decides to get rid of the arab, he also draw the gun and shot the arab. This situation can be seen through the following quotation:

Every nerve in my body was a steel spring, and my grip closed on the revolver. The trigger gave, and the smooth underbelly of the butt jogged my palm. And so, with that crisp, whipcrack sound, it all began. I shook off my sweat and the clinging veil of light. I knew I'd shattered the balance of the day, the spacious calm of this beach on which I had been happy. But I fired four shots more into the inert body, on which they left no visible trace. And each successive shot was another loud, fateful rap on the door of my undoing (pg 39).

The quotation also explains that Meursault adds 4 more shots to the arab's body. The phrase "*each successive shot*" explains that Meursault is aware of the purpose of his actions. It can be said that Meursault's reason for adding 4 more shots is to ensure his success to get rid of the obstacle. In other words, Meursault feels sure that his murder action in order to mastering the place is the the right thing.

Another evidence that supports Meursault's confidence if his murder action is the right thing comes from his explanation about himself. He explains to his lawyer that he is a conditional person who always follows his physical condition. His explanation indicates that according to him, every action which is done in order to fulfill his physical need is right thing. Moreover, Meursault also





be seen from the same quote, the phrase "*I replied that I regarded my case as very simple.*", it shows that he only thinks if his murder action is the only one which will be discussed.

Another evidence that shows Meursault's beliefs can be seen from his conversation with the lawyer. After the lawyer asks about his feeling and attitude toward his mother, Meursault explained that his murder action has no relation with it. This situation can be seen through the following quotation:

The lawyer, however, looked displeased. "That's not enough," he said curtly. After considering for a bit he asked me if he could say that on that day I had kept my feelings under control. "No," I said. "That wouldn't be true." He gave me a queer look, as if I slightly revolted him; then informed me, in an almost hostile tone, that in any case the head of the Home and some of the staff would be cited as witnesses. "And that might do you a very nasty turn," he concluded. When I suggested that Mother's death had no connection with the charge against me, he merely replied that this remark showed I'd never had any dealings with the law. (41).

The quotation explains that Meursault believes if his attitude and actions on his mother's funeral will not knock him down in court because it has nothing to do with his murder case. Although the lawyer explains that the people at his mother's funeral will come as witnesses, Meursault still does not care. Meursault still maintains his decision of rejecting the lawyer's ask, he still refuses to change the essence of his statement about the reason why he seems calm at mother's funeral. In other words, Meursault is unaffected by the lawyer's statement. The evidence that he is unaffected by his lawyer can be seen from his decision while undergoing his first court. In the beginning of the first court, the Magistrate informs Meursault that the lawyer is not able to attend. Although the Magistrate gives Meursault the

option to delay the court proceeding, Meursault still decides to start the court process. This situation can be seen from the following quotation:

After inviting me to sit down, the magistrate informed me in a very polite tone that, “owing to unforeseen circumstances,” my lawyer was unable to be present. I should be quite entitled, he added, to reserve my answers to his questions until my lawyer could attend. To this I replied that I could answer for myself (pg 42).

The quotation explains that Meursault is convinced if he can answer any questions that will be given with properly and appropriately. It shows that Meursault is unaffected by the lawyer’s critic. So, it can be concluded that Meursault is the person who has strong principle and never influenced by others’ opinion, and his heartlessness toward others’ opposition reaction shows that Meursault is never worry about the relation between his principle toward others.

Other evidence that demonstrates Meursault's belief on truth value of the court process can be seen through his conversation with the magistrate. In starting the court process, the magistrate says that he would do his best to help Meursault. This statement can be seen through Meursault's explanation:

After another silence he stood up and said he’d like to help me; I interested him, and, with God’s help, he would do something for me in my trouble. But, first, he must put a few more questions. (pg 42).

The phrase “with God’s help” indicates that the magistrate tries to show that he is a religious man. It can be said that the magistrate will help the person who has a faith in God, especially the same God as his. The evidence of this explanation can be seen while Meursault is not able to answer the magistrate’s question. When the magistrate does not get the answer that he needed, he changes

the subject of the discussion in to the essence of God. From Meursault's explanation, the magistrate says that he "*believed in God, and that even the worst of sinners could be forgiven of Him. But first he must repent, and become like a little child, with a simple, trustful heart, open to conviction (pg 43)*". This statement indicates that the magistrate tries to influence Meursault, he forces Meursault to believe on the presence of God and to ask forgiveness to God. It can be said that the magistrate will help Meursault if he is willing to admit his guilt and ask forgiveness of God. Although the judge had given a clue to the Meursault, Meursault still refuses to believe in the presence of God. Meursault's attitude is in accordance with Wibowo's statement about *ubermensch*, in *Para Pembunuh Tuhan*, Wibowo states that *ubermensch* is a man who dares to live in the world, accepting and facing the world with all his good and evil without seeking escape on any supernatural things (27). In addition, Meursault's actions which refuses to follow the magistrate's pressure to believe in the existence of a God, also shows that Meursault does not care with the topic because he only needs to discuss about his murder action. In other words, it can be concluded that Meursault is convinced if his faith of God is unrelated thing toward the murder case.

Meursault is also described as the man who proud of himself. His pride can be seen through the changing of the lawyer and the magistrate in running the court process. This changing can be seen through the following quotation:

I came before the magistrate many times more, but on these occasions my lawyer always accompanied me. The examinations were confined to asking me to amplify my previous statements. Or else the magistrate and my lawyer discussed technicalities. At such times they took very little notice of me, and, in any case, the tone of the examinations changed as time went on. The magistrate seemed to have lost interest in me, and to have come to some sort-of decision about my case. He never mentioned



that becomes the center or foundation of every human actions. Wibowo (44) also explained that the word “god” is a metaphysical symbol for the ideal value or the ultimate truth. In the previous chapter, Meursault has been described as the one who upholds the value of truth in general. Therefore, the death of god for Meursault is a situation where his belief on the value of the truth dies.

The dead of truth value in general for Meursault can be seen in the process of the last court session. Previously, Meursault has a confidence that the court will only process his murder action fairly. But at the last court, the magistrate, prosecutor and lawyers do not only discuss about Meursault’s murder case, they also discuss some things which is unrelated. It can be seen from the prosecutor’s claims after hearing the testimony of witnesses:

He began by summing up the facts, from my mother’s death onward. He stressed my heartlessness, my inability to state Mother’s age, my visit to the swimming pool where I met Marie, our matinee at the pictures where a Fernandel film was showing, and finally my return with Marie to my rooms. I didn’t quite follow his remarks at first, as he kept on mentioning “the prisoner’s mistress,” whereas for me she was just “Marie.” Then he came to the subject of Raymond. It seemed to me that his way of treating the facts showed a certain shrewdness. All he said sounded quite plausible. I’d written the letter in collusion with Raymond so as to entice his mistress to his room and subject her to ill-treatment by a man “of more than dubious reputation.” (pg 62).

“This man, who is morally guilty of his mother’s death, is no less unfit to have a place in the community than that other man who did to death the father that begat him. (pg 64).

The quotations explains that the court process discuss many issues beyond the Meursault’s murder case. The first is a discussion of Meursault's attitude and actions on his mother's funeral. The second is a discussion of Meursault's actions with a girl on the day after the funeral. The third is a discussion of his relationship

with a pimp and the activities they do together. These discussions proves that Meursault belief of the truth value on court process is a wrong thing.

In the previous chapter, Meursault's belief becomes the basic for every action he takes. This action is his attitude that refuses to cooperate with the lawyer and the magistrate. Unfortunately, the action puts Meursault in a disadvantageous situation. In other words, the value of truth that Meursault upholds and believes is capable for bring him to a better situation, now has hits him down to a bad situation. This condition can be seen through the prosecutor's statements about Meursault:

He said he'd studied it closely—and had found a blank, “literally nothing, gentlemen of the jury.” Really, he said, I had no soul, there was nothing human about me, not one of those moral qualities which normal men possess had any place in my mentality. (pg 63).

“This man has, I repeat, no place in a community whose basic principles he flouts without compunction. (pg 64).

The quotation explains that the prosecutor sees Meursault as a bad person, a bad person who has no feelings and rules in behave. Meursault is also regarded as a person who is inappropriate to live in a society that has a moral rule because he does not understand the most basic rules of life as part of society. This assumption is prosecutor's conclusion which is taken through the discussions before, most of the discussions talks about somethings outside the Meursault murder case. So, the discussions outside the murder case is the most influence factor to decide who Meursault is. In the previous chapter, Meursault did not allow his lawyer to correct Meursault's statement about his feelings toward his mother. This attitude makes the lawyer no longer discuss any outside thing

beyond the murder case and also make both of them unable to optimize their defenses toward prosecutor's accusations. In other words, the situation in which Meursault is seemed as a bad person is the impact of his belief in the value of truth. The value of truth that Meursault believes not only affects to his good name, it also delivers him to the worst situations which can be acceptable by criminals. The situation is a death penalty, it can be seen through the prosecutor's demand:

“This man has, I repeat, no place in a community whose basic principles he flouts without compunction. Nor, heartless as he is, has he any claim to mercy. I ask you to impose the extreme penalty of the law; and I ask it without a qualm (pg 64).

The quotation explains that the prosecution is very convinced that the death penalty is an appropriate punishment for a man like Meursault. Unfortunately, the decision begins with a statement that not only focuses on the Meursault murder. The phrase *"no place in a community of basic principles he flouts without compunction."* indicates that the main reason of prosecutor's demand is Meursault's morality. This morale is closely related to the discussions that mostly focus on the outside of Meursault's murder case. In other words, the discussions outside the murder case has led Meursault to the worst demand, the death penalty.

The death penalty demand becomes a strong reason for him to lost his belief in the value. The evidence that he lost his faith can be seen from his attempt to find another way to be free from the bad situation. It can be seen from his conversation with the lawyer:

I asked him what were the chances of getting the sentence quashed.He said there was no chance of that. He had not raised any point of law, as



upholds is dead, he enters into nihilism. In addition, Budi Hardiman (281) explains that nihilism can lead human into a critical situation or a day that is always a night because all the certainty (values) in his life is destroyed. Budi's statement shows that nihilism has a great possibility of bringing humans in a despair condition because there is no hope anymore. In other words, the things that indicate the state of nihilism are the loss of desire to do, own and undergo anything.

After the value of truth in general is dead, automatically Meursault falls in despair. Meursault's despair is first seen after he is sentenced to death, Meursault does not give any statement although the magistrate gives him a chance. It can be seen from the following quote:

I heard the Judge's voice asking if I had anything more to say. After thinking for a moment, I answered, "No." Then the policemen led me out (pg67).

The quotation explains that Meursault no longer understands what he must say. The word "No." also can be interpreted if he no longer has any hope of the condition he faces. Meursault's despair does not only affect the loss of his hope to be free from the death penalty, his despair also affects everything he has ever known. In other words, he completely lost all hopes and desires. The evidence that supports Meursault's total despair can be seen from his conversation with a chaplain:

And his voice was quite steady when he said: "Have you no hope at all? Do you really think that when you die you die outright, and nothing remains?" I said: "Yes." (pg 72-73).

In the quotation, the word "Yes" is the answer of two different questions. So, Meursault's answer toward the pastor's question "Have you no hope at all? Is "Yes". It explains that Meursault no longer has any hope and wish.

The impact of total despair is pessimist condition. He sees life as an unimportant thing. This effect can be seen when the pastor assures that the Meursault's clemency appeal will be approved. it can be seen from the following quotation:

He says to Meursault that "he felt convinced my appeal would succeed, but I was saddled with a load of guilt, of which I must get rid (pg 73).

The chaplain's statement makes clear that Meursault is able to free from the death penalty provided he was willing to admit his guilt and ask forgiveness of God. In the previous chapter, it was explained that Meursault is trying to find an alternative way to save him from the worst demand. But, when he gets a chance, he rejects it. This rejection is not only caused by Meursault's unwillingness to believe on the existence of God, it also caused by his total despair. In other words, he no longer wants to life.