

Victory in Tragic Ending: Analysis of Sophocles' *Oedipus The King*

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Abstract

This study aims on revealing the concept of victory through the Tragical ending which reflected from Oedipus the King drama written by Sophocles. The objectives of this study are to explain How the concept of Victory in Tragic ending described in Sophocles' *Oedipus the King*. This study is a qualitative study which applied Strauss' Structuralism Theory and used discourse intrinsic elements of drama approach. The objects of this study include the material objects which are the drama "Oedipus the King" written by Sophocles as well as formal object which is the intrinsic elements of drama, such as dialogue, staging, characters, plot and themes which reflected from the dialogue in the drama. The data of this study is a qualitative data which is in the form of dialogues on the drama. From the data analysis, it was found that (1) intrinsic elements of drama analysis such as, dialogue, staging, character, plot and themes put a contribution. The contribution of the dialogue, staging, character, plot and themes is considered as a result of the supportive data which the writer used to analyze the main goal of this analysis using Strauss' binary opposition. (2) By the Strauss' Binary Opposition, it appears that both of protagonist and antagonist of the story which this case between Oedipus and Teireisias shows their own figure. In the end, Teireisias who had a limited vision and the bad words when he talks to Oedipus, he has the knowledge behind his lackness and his knowledge is categorized as divine knowledge, since his every words he said was proven in the last of the story. (3) Concept of victory that the writer discovered after doing the binary opposition between Oedipus and Teireisias, then from the Oedipus' oppositions the writer seeks the evidence that behind all of the Oedipus weakness againts Teireisias, there still a concept of winning or victory. These evidences was obtained through the dialogues which occurred in the tragic ending of *Oedipus of the King* Drama and shows that the tragic ending in *Oedipus the King* story written by Sophocles were symbolized as Victory.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the important aspects in life, it's an important function in around the world as the tool of communication in order to understand and to get the meaning in communication, human need languages in their daily lives. However, the vast number of languages makes people difficult to understand one and another

The objectives of the study were to investigate the translation techniques used to translate and to identify the naturalness in translated lyrics of Adele's 25 album.

METHODS

This study is a descriptive qualitative research which focuses on the intrinsic elements analysis presented on plays "Oedipus the King" written by Sophocles the research method used in this study is qualitative method and used Intrinsic elements approach and characteristic, plot, symbols, and metaphor theory. It concerns on the tragic ending provided in the plays and analyse them in term of its intrinsic elements analysis reflected from the "Oedipus the King" drama written by Sophocles. According to Sandelowski (2000), in a descriptive qualitative study, straight descriptions of phenomena are desired. This means that the data provided in this study will be in form of words, phrases and sentences.

Intrinsic approach takes part from the literary work itself. Intrinsic approach emphasizes the analysis intertext by describing the elements of the prose that explained before. Intrinsic approach applied by the writer in order to show the elements of the novel. Parts of elements of the short story or drama script are plot summary, characterization, symbol, setting, and theme. This research uses those elements of prose because those elements are related. Wellek and Warren (1977: 139) said that, "intrinsic approach are being introduced based on a survey of the wider range of forms in modern literature." They also stated that, "the main part of intrinsic approach is based on the text of literary works

itself by doing an interpretation and analysis of it" (1977: 139).

In qualitative research, the researcher or the members of the group of the researchers take role as the key instrument of the research (Sugiyono, 2007). Therefore, I am as the researcher take the role as the key instrument. The dialogue of each characters in "Oedipus the King" written by Sophocles also support this study as the instrument for collecting data. The data was collected through some steps such as reading, identifying, interpreting, inventorying, and reporting. After collecting the data, they were analyzed through the interpretation based on dictionary meaning and contextual meaning as well as the structure of writing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Symbol Reflected through Characters and Metaphors in *Oedipus The King* Drama Script

In Oedipus the King there are found several symbols which are reflected through the metaphors and the characters' characteristic. The metaphors which are reflected in the dialogue of the characters embodied symbols. The symbols found in the character reflected through the character's dialogue in which the metaphor existed. The metaphor in the dialogue helps the writer to analyze the symbols in the drama script. According to Cricka & Grushka (2009), "Symbols, as metaphor, stand for something other than their literal form and can express abstract qualities such as truth, strength, wisdom and courage." Meanwhile, the character's characteristics can also support the analysis of symbol. Kennedy and Dana Gioia (2010, p. 224) explained that symbol can be divided into two: symbolic characters and symbolic acts. "In some novels and stories, symbolic characters make brief cameo appearance appearances. Such characters often are not well-rounded and fully-known, but are seen fleetingly and remain slightly mysterious." (Kennedy and Gioia, 2010, p. 224) Sometimes, symbolic character is when the character only appeared one time or two times, but the appearance influences the story from the beginning until the end. In general, symbolic

characters are when the character can be two roles, a main character and a symbol that makes the meaning of the story. Understanding the characteristic in a drama or novel is important. Based on Goodyer (2008) the function of characteristic is to explore human nature and to entertain, to bring an audience in, and allow them to get the chance to experience foreign situations and characters, and thereby learn something about themselves and others.

Symbolic Characters

Kennedy and Dana Gioia (2010, p. 224) explained that symbol can be divided into two: symbolic characters and symbolic acts. "In some novels and stories, symbolic characters make brief cameo appearance appearances. Such characters often are not well-rounded and fully-known, but are seen fleetingly and remain slightly mysterious." In "Oedipus the King" drama, there are 12 symbolic characters which are (1) *Oedipus as determined person* (2) *Oedipus as Loyal Leader* (3) *Oedipus as brave* (4) *Jocasta is the person who fears of truth* (5) *Jocasta as irresponsible* (6) *Creon as responsible* (7) *Creon as honest* (8) *Teireisias as savvy* (9) *Priest as people's voice* (10) *Chorus as the people* (11) *Second messengers as loyal servant* (12) *Herdsmen as braveman*. It can be concluded that from those twelve symbolic characters presented in the drama "Oedipus the King" by Sophocles, most of the symbols refer to the goodness characterization.

Symbols Through Metaphor

In Oedipus the King written by Sophocles, there are 9 symbols through metaphor including (1) *Thebes as a Ship* (2) *King is a Prow*; (3) *Depths as adversity* (4) *Bloody surf is Misery*; (5) *Bright is Enjoyment*; (6) *Laurel is Triumph*; (7) *Light is good, Dark is bad*; (8) *Immortal is almighty*; (9) *Golden as precious things*. Besides being interpreted based on dictionary meaning and contextual meaning, all the symbols through metaphor are interpreted from the character's dialogue in Oedipus the King. The symbols in the drama "Oedipus the King" are mostly symbolized the plague that occurred in the Oedipus the king drama. From those 9 symbols, it can be concluded that most of

the symbols that the writer found are symbolized about the Thebes' suffers, a struggle king who wants to save his people from the plague which suffers the people of Thebes and lastly symbolized about the god in "Oedipus the King" drama. Comparing to the symbolic character before, the symbols in this section however have more varied functions such as textual function of informativeness, manipulative function of reconceptualization, and manipulative function of ideology.

The Plot of the Story

In Oedipus the King drama written by Sophocles contains five elements of plot, which are exposition, raising action, climax, falling action, and denouement. In this part, the writer has analyzed five of the elements and the summary of the plot in Oedipus the king drama written by Sophocles.

Exposition

The writer has found that the most exposition happened when the priest explained about the worst condition of Thebes because of the plague which suffers the city. This scene introduces the main character and also the setting in this story which is Oedipus as a King and take place in front of Oedipus' palace. One by one characters appear such as, Creon, Jocasta, Teireisias, Herdsman, and first and second messengers appears then he leads to Rising action which has been explained below.

Rising action

The rising action of Oedipus the King story happened when the first messenger enter the stage and told Oedipus that the truth might be found when Oedipus find out about the Herdsman and asks him who has give the first messenger a baby at that time. meanwhile, Teireisias has refuse Oedipus to know more about the truth and by that time Oedipus has loses his temper. After what has just happened the Herdsman enter and leads to the climax of the story.

Climax

Oedipus has finally knew about the truth from the Herdsman that he is the son of the fallen King, Iaius and Oedipus felt that it is too late to turn back. Not only that information that Oedipus got, he also realize after the Herdsman enters that Oedipus has just married His own mother and even has 2 children when they are married. Knowing the Oedipus has finally realized that he has married his own mother, the second messenger has appeared and bring bad news which leads to the Falling action.

Falling action

When the second messenger finally enters the stage to explain that Jocasta has comitted to suicide. Everybody has shocked , especially Creon who was the person which the second messenger talked to. Not only that, second messenger also let Creon and everybody in the palace knew that Oedipus has blinded himself. Not long after that, the blind Oedipus enters and he Confessed to everyone that he has married his mother and killed his father, He also asks Creon to replace his throne which also leads to the Resolution of Oedipus the King story written by Sophocles.

Resolution

The resolution and also the tragic ending of this story happened when Oedipus finally asks his friend Creon to lead him away from the Thebes to the place where there is no human existence. In the end of the story Creon also give an advice before the blinded Oedipus left the Thebes that he has to obtain his pray to the Gods. After that, Creon has accepted Oedipus' offer that Creon should lead Oedipus away from the Thebes. Creon and Oedipus went away from the Thebes and it becomes the end of the story of Oedipus the King written by Sophocles.

The Tragic Ending which Symbolized Victory

the explanation of the symbol of victory that appeared on the end of the plot, King Oedipus, and the Thebes will be explained one by one. The tragic ending which reflected through Oedipus the King plays written by Sophocles were found or happens in the last part of the story.

The tragical events through the plot can be seen in the resolution section above, which tells about the blinded Oedipus' exilements from his own city, the Thebes. While his exilement, the blinded Oedipus also atone his sins by admitted to the god and claimed that he has been hated by the gods because Oedipus has caused his city, The Thebes suffered by the plague and also married his own mother as written in the dialogue page 23, Line 1714 and page 21, Line 1539:

“OEDIPUS: But I'm now hated by the Gods” (page 23, Line 1714)

“OEDIPUS: Then I would not have come to kill my father and marry my mother infamously. Now I am godless and child of impurity, begetter in the same seed that created my wretched self. If there is any ill worse than” (Page 21, Line 1539)

In this dialogue above, the scene during this dialogue can be stated as Tragical events, since its action is serious and filled with pity and fear incidents. But, the behind this Tragical momments, the writer has found that there is a Victorial momment as well. The victorial momments that can be bought from this scene is that the responsibility of Oedipus. Even Oedipus who has the status of the man who caused the trouble in his own city, on the other hand, Oedipus has finally found the way to stop the plague in Thebes by doing an Exilements from the Thebes. although, his act can be conluded as a Tragical action, yet Oedipus still reach his own victory by taking his responsibility to saving his people from the plague. Another scene which shown the tragical action happened when Oedipus was accompanied by Creon to fulfill Oedipus' exilement which represents the end of the story and also the resolution over the story. The dialogue which represents tragic ending plot written in page 23, Line 1719: *“OEDIPUS: Now lead me away from here.” (Page 23, Line 1719)*

In this dialogue, Oedipus ask Creon for the last time to accompanied him into Oedipus' exilement from the Thebes. Therefore, after

taking the dialogue above, the writer concluded that the tragic ending of Oedipus the King plays written by Sophocles were happened when the exilements of Oedipus occurred because, while the exilements, Oedipus has passed through various kinds of ordeals and in the end Oedipus has to leave his own city, the Thebes, for the sake of his People. The first person who gains its own victory was found in the main character of the plays, Oedipus. The writer has found Oedipus' victory after Oedipus blinded himself in the end of the story. In that scene, the writer found that the Oedipus' blindness has made Oedipus realize about all of his true identity. Starting from Oedipus realized that he was the killer of the King before him until Oedipus realized that he was the person who caused the plague which suffers all of the people in the Thebes. But, behind the reality that happened to Oedipus, it makes Oedipus gains his own victory in his own way. The first dialogue which represents that Oedipus has gain his own victory was written in page 21, line 1547:

“OEDIPUS: What I have done here was best done—don't tell me otherwise, do not give me further counsel. I do not know with what eyes I could look upon my father when I die and go under the earth, nor yet my wretched mother those two to whom I have done things deserving worse punishment than hanging...” (Page 21, Line 1547)

In this dialogue, it is shown that Oedipus gains his own victory by his blindness. With his blindness he could finally realize who he really is. Even the reality is hard to accept for Oedipus, He still bravely faced the truth and dare to serve his punishment as well. However, the victory that reflected from this dialogue is Oedipus has finally knew the truth, after all with his own eyes widely open, yet he wasn't able to find the truth which caused his city suffers from the plague, but with his blindness condition he was able to finally admit his own identity and he was ready to face the punishment in order to makes the Thebes free from the plague. From this explanation, the writer concluded that the dialogue above

represents Oedipus' victory againsts his true identity which remains unseen before Oedipus finally knew the truth. The second dialogue that the writer found which reflected the tragic action is on page 23, Line 1718: *“OEDIPUS: Now lead me away from here.”* (Page 23, Line 1718)

In this dialogue, it is shown that Oedipus has decided to leave his city, the Thebes because he was the person who caused the Thebes' main problem itself. But, behind this scene the writer found that Oedipus indirectly achieved his victory by exiled himself out from the Thebes. On the other hand, while Oedipus' exilement, Oedipus has made it into victory againsts the plague which suffered his city for a quite long time and caused so many of his people die. In the end, after the explanation the writer concluded that Oedipus has achieved his Victory againsts the plague which suffers the city by exile himself out from the Thebes and also his friend. After Oedipus' exilement from the Thebes, the writer has found the victory symbol in Thebes. The victory that the writer meant is the victory againsts the plague which suffers the entire people of Thebes during Oedipus led the Thebes. The dialogue which can be use as a proof that Thebes has achieved its victory can be seen in the page 2, line 116 as written as:

*“OEDIPUS: What is the rite of purification? How shall it be done?
CREON: By banishing a man, or expiation of blood by blood, since it is murder guilt which holds our city in this destroying storm.
OEDIPUS: Who is this man whose fate the God pronounces?
CREON: My lord, before you piloted the state we had a king called Laius.
OEDIPUS: I know of him by hearsay. I have not seen him.
CREON: The God commanded clearly: let some one punish with force this dead man's murderers.”* (Page 2, Line 116)

In this dialogue, it tells about the way to cure the plague which suffers the city at that time. Creon who bring the message from the god of the

sun, King Phoebus tells Oedipus that the way to cure the Plague is to banish the murderer of the King before Oedipus which is Iaius. Meanwhile, the Thebes still suffering from the plague at that time and Oedipus still find out who is the murderer of King Iaius. After Oedipus keep searching about the murderer of King Iaius, finally Oedipus knew the murderer of king Iaius is the Oedipus himself. Then, Oedipus atone his sins for married his own mother and killed his own father by exile himself out from the Thebes. In the end, with the Oedipus' exilement, the writer concludeds that the Thebes has been freed from the plague or achieved for its own victory, because back before Oedipus' exilements, Creon mention that if the murderer of King Iaius was banished, the plague will no more exist in the Thebes. The victory of Thebes is againts the plague which suffers and kills the people who lives in thebes.

By the tragical events which occurred in the ending of the Oedipus the King plays written by Sophocles above that the writer has collected, it appears the tragic ending in Oedipus the King has its own victory. The tragic ending's victory was involving the Main character and also The setting of the Oedipus the King story. Although, there are several character in this story who feels sad about the resolution of the story, yet the Ending of the Oedipus the King drama still keeps its own Victory, but the Victory that the writer mention is not the victory which should be celebrated, but the Victory which should be unfortanted. In the end, after the explanation above the writer concludedd that the Tragic Ending of Oedipus the King were symbolized victory. Even Sophocles as the author of the story deliver the tragical action in the end of the story, still the writer has his own perspective that there is also Victorial action behind the Tragical action and the writer proved it by collecting the dialogue which shown the tragical action which occurred in the ending of the Oedipus the King story written by Sophocles and explains it one by one based on the writer's perspective.

CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that intrinsic elements analysis such as, Character and characterization, Plot analysis, metaphor and symbols put a contribution on finding the tragical action which reflected in "Oedipus the King". The contribution of the Character and characterization, Plot analysis, metaphor and symbols is considered as a result of the supportive data which the writer used to analyze the main goal of this analysis, finding the victory symbol in the Tragic ending of Oedipus the King play written by Sophocles.

Based on Aristothles (1987) who was one of the greatest philosophers of Ancient Greece, Every Tragedy, therefore, must have six parts, which parts determine its quality—namely, Plot, Characters, Diction, Thought, Spectacle, and Melody and also in the form of action, not of narrative; with incidents are using pity and fear, wherewith to accomplish its catharsis of such emotions. The tragic ending which occurred in Oedipus the king story written by Sophocles were similar to Aristothles theory. By the tragical events which occurred in the ending of the Oedipus the King plays written by Sophocles above that the writer has collected, it appears the tragic ending in Oedipus the King has its own victory. Although in Sophocles' Oedipus the King drama, there are several character in this story who feels sad about the resolution of the story, yet the Ending of the Oedipus the King drama still keeps its own Victory, but the Victory that the writer mention is not the victory which should be celebrated, but the Victory which should be unfortanted. These evidences thus, show that the tragic ending in Oedipus the King story writtten by Sophocles were symbolized as Victory.

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