



THE EXISTENCE OF AN IMMIGRANT IN *HAMILTON: THE REVOLUTION* (2015): A PLAY SCRIPT BY LIN- MANUEL MIRANDA AND JEREMY MCCARTER

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Abstract

The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of the existence of an immigrant through the analysis of the literary devices such as plot, setting. This analysis is related to the concept *power and knowledge* by Michel Foucault and *consciousness* by Sigmund Freud, supported by the text and context based interpretation. The result of the analysis shows that the immigrant's struggles to prove his existence which reflected through his efforts in showing loyalty towards the country and his mindset about the issue in the country.

Key words: existence, struggle, knowledge.

A. INTRODUCTION

Migration gives chance to people to renew their life either for economy, social, political or even environmental reason. Economy is known to be the most common reason why people migrate. Thus, people believe that they will be able to get a better job or enhance their career opportunities in another country. There are also people who move to a new place because they believe that the new place will offer them better social communities. They hope it will allow them to have better relationship with others and therefore, a better quality of life. Another reason why people migrate is because people want to escape from political persecution or war. Last but not least, people migrate because they want to avoid natural disaster. Whatever reason that triggers people move to a new country, they are known as the immigrants of the country.

United State of America as a big country is known to be the most popular destination in the world for immigrants. It is even known as the dream land of the

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immigrants. The existence of an immigrant within the American society is quite tight. Each of immigrants has their own community and thus creates a border between one community to another. Some of them do not even trust each other. Each tries to show and elevate their existence in the society. Speara (2017), Indonesian's Higher Education Directorate, Ministry of Education and Culture Dictionary defines *existence* as the state of existing. While, Encyclopaedia Britannica (2017) explains that *existence* is always about a being-in-the-world. The existence is dealing with human relationship with others. The immigrant struggle and show their ability to get power and place not only in their community but also in whole American society. They compete against each other to be different in order to get known and recognized as the real American citizens. It is not just about life but how the human beings struggle to face the problems around them. An immigrant struggles to prove his quality in competing in any aspect of life in order to be equal with others. This condition describes in play script entitle *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter. The play reflects the issue of the struggle of an immigrant to be received and avowed equally in American society. The protagonist makes the effort through two ways; showing loyalty and mindset.

B. METHODOLOGY

The analysis of the play script is done through the text and context-based interpretation. The play analyzed by using fictional devices of drama such as character, plot (conflict), setting, and stage direction. The devices are connected one another and give contribution in revealing the meanings of the play. Character is analyzed to reveal the efforts done by protagonist, the character's attitude, belief, and behaviour or actions. Plot is used to figure out the conflicts faced by the character. Setting has a function to show the situation, atmosphere, and condition faced by the character in order to reveal the strategies of the character to show his existence. In addition, these elements are analyzed based on the concept of 'power and knowledge' by Michel Foucault (*The History of Sexuality Volume 1*) and the concept of 'consciousness' by Sigmund Freud (Mark Solm. 1997: *The Freudian Analysis*).

C. DISCUSSION

This section analyses the fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict), and setting to reveal *existence of an immigrant*. Existence of an immigrant in this analysis refers to struggles faced by the protagonist, Alexander Hamilton, to prove his quality in many aspects of life. The existence of an immigrant in this section can be seen through two ways; the character's loyalty towards the country and his mindset about the issues in the country.

1. Loyalty towards

Loyalty is one of the character's strategies to state his place in the new country. It can be seen through his position. His idea and opinion tend to be worthy in every decision. He is a trusted man. He cares about freedom of slavery and equality for

immigrant. He does not like to watch and rule behind the desk; however, he directly gets himself involved in a field work with other people. He changes people's mind about immigrants: that immigrants help to change a country in many positive ways.

The protagonist shows his loyalty through his choice of joining the army. He becomes a soldier and work harder to be a captain. He shows his loyalty as the leader in the war. It can be seen in the following quotation:

“ENSEMBLE: What?

HAMILTON: The bullets out your gun!

ENSEMBLE: What?

HAMILTON: We move under cover and we move as one through the night. We have one shot to live another day. We cannot let a stray gunshot give us away. We will fight up close, seize the moment and stay in it. It's either that or meet the business end of a bayonet. The code word is “Rochambeau,” dig me?

ENSEMBLE: Rochambeau.”

(p. 121)

The quotation above shows the struggles of the character to lead the others in the battlefield. He not only gives the command but also takes the responsibility to protect his troops from enemy. The setting refers to the urgent situation experienced by him and the troops in the war. It shows that he is surrounded by enemies. They are trapped. It can be seen that he faces the external conflict that he has to fight the enemy. He releases the conflict by his courage and confidence to face the situation. He struggles to get out from the mess. He tries to save their live. The sentence “*We move under cover and we move as one through the night*” explains that he has tactic to escape from the offence silently. They try to avoid the direct contact with the enemy due to the limitation of the arms. It shows that as a leader, he really responsible to his troops and he wants them to come back home safely. Another way he uses to keep away from the enemy shows through the sentence “*We will fight up close, seize the moment and stay in it.*” It means that he is waiting for the chance to give the counterattack. It can be seen that he has knowledge and experience about the war. He has trained and ready for any circumstances in the battle. The character has confidence that they will bring the victory to the country and spread it into others. The way he leads his army shows that he really meant to win the war for his country and his people. Hence, he shows the loyalty as a leader.

Moreover, the character shows that his idea and opinion tend to be worth in every decision. It proves that he is a responsible leader and earns the trust from societies. His experience in the war and his education makes him worth to hear. It support by the following quotation:

“ENSEMBLE: Dear Mr. Hamilton: John Adams doesn't stand a chance so who are you

promoting?

.....

The character steps forward.

HAMILTON: The people are asking to hear my voice.

For the country is facing a difficult choice.

And if you were to ask me who I'd promote—
Jefferson has my vote.

JEFFERSON, MADISON, ENSEMBLE: Oh!

HAMILTON: I have never agreed with Jefferson once. We have fought on like seventy- five different fronts.

JEFFERSON, MADISON, ENSEMBLE: Oh!

HAMILTON: But when all is said and all is done.
Jefferson has beliefs. Burr has none.

*(Madison & Jefferson exchange a glance, as
the company hurries away)."*

(p. 259-260)

The text shows that he is an important person for the country. This can be revealed through the ways people treat him. The word *ENSEMBLE* in the text refers to the group of people who trust his choice to decide the next president. The setting refers to the serious and chaotic atmosphere in the cabinet meeting. They are determined the election's result. The protagonist is believed to choose due to his position and contribution for the country. The words "*I have never agreed with Jefferson once.*" refer to the experience between Hamilton and Jefferson. Both of them were the presidents' secretary and they used to be a rival. The conflict arises from the internal that he has to make the decision for many people. He releases the conflict by becoming a wise man. He sets aside his personal interest with Jefferson for the sake of many people. He shows that he has known Jefferson and understands the way he thinks. He has struggled from the pressures and competition with Jefferson. The phrase "*Jefferson has beliefs. Burr has none.*" explains that the protagonist is a thoughtful person. He chooses Jefferson because he is aware that Jefferson had efforts to keep trying in order to achieve his ambition to be a president. He not only thinks of his own advantage but also the consequences for the people in the country. He shows he is loyal through his decision.

Furthermore, the protagonist's loyalty shows through his concerns about freedom for slavery. He considers that the Revolution of America is not only the changes for the system in the government but also the changes for whole people. They have to change their way of life. The following quotations support this condition:

LAURENS: I stay at work with Hamilton. We write essays against slavery. And every day's a test of our camaraderie and bravery.

HAMILTON: We cut supply lines, we steal contraband. We pick and choose our battles and places to take a stand. And ev'ry day, "Sir, entrust me with a command." And ev'ry day."
(p. 97)

The text shows that he stands and fights for his beliefs. It explains his choice after the revolution to keep fighting for the slaves. He considers that the slave does not get the freedom. The setting refers to injustice received by the slave. The American still influenced by the thoughts of their colonizer to own the others. They show the act of the colonizer. The protagonist and his immigrant friend, Laurens, consider this condition. The conflict comes from the external that he gets resistance from surround during his fight. He releases the conflict by his courage to bring freedom for the slave. He does not step back. The word "*We write essays against slavery.*" explains the effort of the characters to fight the people. He struggles to change their minds through his works. It can be seen that the people have no awareness toward the others freedom. The word "*And every day's a test of our camaraderie and bravery.*" represents that he struggles from the others critics. He means that he is ready for the risk of his effort. He has prepared for everything he faces. They know where and understand whom they fight. It can be seen that he is qualified and experienced as soldier. He is ready for every fight in every condition.

Briefly, from all the quotations above the protagonist deals with various settings and conflicts. Setting in this analysis refers to the unexpected atmosphere and situations faced and fixed by the character. The conflicts come from internal and external sources. He releases the conflicts by using his skills and knowledge in order to achieve his target. It can be seen that the character uses loyalty as the strategy to state his place in the new country. He struggles to show his existence in every aspect of life. He shows his loyalty through his acts. He wants to be a loyal leader for the people in his community. Moreover, he shows his loyalty through the ways he gives motivation for himself and spread it into others. He shows his loyalty through his idea which tend to be worthy for the country. Moreover, he cares about slavery and equality of immigrant in the country. He acts as a leader instead of a ruler.

2. Mindset about

Another way used by the protagonist to state his place is through mindset. The protagonist is a smart young man. He is a principle man. He achieves his goal by his own work. He is consistent in his idea for the good of the country. He learns to deal with negative thoughts. He respects every advice from the other as a lesson.

His mindset can be seen from the way he manages the government. He has strong principle. He is aware about the issues in the government and tries to cease them. He uses his experience both as an immigrant and soldier to learn. It can be seen from quotation below:

“HAMILTON: Corruption’s such an old song that we can sing along in harmony and nowhere is it stronger than in Albany. This colony’s economy’s increasingly stalling and honestly that’s why public service seems to be calling me.

BURR, ENSEMBLE: He’s just non-stop!

HAMILTON: I practiced the law, I practic’lly perfected it. I’ve seen injustice in the world and I’ve corrected it. Now for a strong central democracy, if not then I’ll be Socrates, throwing verbal rocks at these mediocrities.”

(p. 137- 138)

The text shows the crimes committed by the group of people in the government. Their crimes mess up the stability of the country. The protagonist, as an educated person, thinks that this is his duty to solve the problem. He has awareness about the condition. The people got injustice and their opinions are not heard by the government. He struggles not to make the same mistake as the previous leader. The setting refers to the chaos in the country that many people are looking for the profits above the misery of the other group. It can be seen that there is no revolution yet for the whole people. The words “*corruption*”, “*injustice*”, and “*democracy*” refer to the crimes that happened in the country. The conflict arises from the internal, that he is aware about the crimes which will be hamper the development of the country. He releases the conflict through his critical thinking and analyzing the situation quickly. It can be seen that he is trying to provide the justice for the people who are harmed due to the corruption. He gives solution as a proof of his intelligence. He gives contribution by making a financial planning and central organization for the government. The word “*Socrates*” refers to his skill and credibility about the country. It shows the way he manages his steps to get a place in the country. The protagonist shows his intelligence through his comprehension about the situation in the government.

Furthermore, the protagonist is a principle person. He is consistent toward his target and work hard to achieve it. It shows through the following quotation:

“HAMILTON: I am not throwing away my shot! I am not throwing away my shot! Hey yo, I’m just like my country, I’m young, scrappy and hungry, and I’m not throwing away my shot! I’m ’a get a scholarship to King’s College. I prob’ly shouldn’t brag, but dag, I amaze and astonish. The problem is I got a lot of brains but no polish. I gotta holler just to be heard. With every word, I drop knowledge! I’m a diamond in the rough, a shiny piece of coal tryin’ to reach my goal. My power of speech: unimpeachable. Only nineteen but my mind is older. These New

York City streets get colder, I shoulder. Ev'ry burden, ev'ry disadvantage. I have learned to manage, I don't have a gun to brandish....”

(p. 26)

The text shows that he has target in his new country. It shows that he has knowledge and he has desire to be a successful. It can be seen from his act that he does not waste the opportunity. He takes the chance and be sure that he succeeded to achieve the target. The repetition words “*my shot*” proves that he has strong will about his target. He does not step back. It can be seen that he has principle to pursue his dream. He keeps moving forward to face every condition until he achieves his target. Beside, the word “*my shot*” also refers to the chance for the protagonist to show his capability. He does not want to miss every chance. It shows that he stands for his dream even when he treats unfair. The conflict comes from the internal that he never give up for his dream even when he does not get the same chance. He releases that conflict by keep trying, keep working and keep moving. He is confidence about his ability because he knows his strength and weakness. He makes his strategy by using his expertise.

Moreover, he achieves his goal by his own work. He works hard for his aim. He tries to blend in society and follow their rules in order to pursue his dreams. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“**HAMILTON:** I wrote my way out of hell. I wrote my way to revolution. I was louder than the crack in the bell. I wrote Eliza love letters until she fell. I wrote about The Constitution and defended it well and in the face of ignorance and resistance. I wrote financial systems into existence and when my prayers to God were met with indifference I picked up a pen, I wrote my own deliverance.”

(p. 232)

The quotation above explains that he is a hard worker. He does not give up easily when he has desire or purpose. He will not give up until he makes it real. He makes his own way to achieve his target. He got his success without asking or begging to other but just working alone. The setting in the text refers to the passion of the protagonist to achieve his aim. He arranges his plan and does it one by one. The repetition phrase “*I wrote...*” explain that he makes his own way to reach his will; his family, his position, and his pride as a state man. The phrase “*when my prayers to God were met with indifference*” explains the condition that he feels disappointed and betrayed by his beliefs. The conflict comes from internal that he is afraid to lose everything he has. He releases the conflict by convincing himself that he deserves for what he has; his position, his wife, and his award. He tries to be confidence. The sentence “*I wrote my own deliverance*” shows the way the protagonist control his problem. He does not asking for help from the others. He

makes decision to confess his mistake. He confirms people that he has done everything for the country by his own.

In summary, from all the quotation above, the character faces various setting and conflict. The setting refers to the situation and atmosphere from surround that have to face by him in order to pursue his dream, stating his place in society. The conflicts arise from the external and internal. The external conflict refers to the struggle of the character to deal with society while the internal conflict refers to his effort to make decision or to accept and ignore surround. Moreover, showing mindset is the character's another strategy to show his existence. It gives a chance for him to prove that he is a qualified person. He shows his mindset through his words, his acts, and his decisions in facing the problem. He shows that he is smart, ambitious, hard worker, consistent, open-minded, and quick learner.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The play script *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015), written by Lin- Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter, reflects the issue of existence of an immigrant. This issue refers to the struggles experienced by the immigrant to prove his quality and compete with others in any aspects of life. The analysis of the play script deals with the concept of 'power and knowledge' by Michel Foucault and 'consciousness' by Sigmund Freud. Thus, *existence of an immigrant* in this analysis shows the efforts of an immigrant to be received and avowed as the real American in society. To show his existence, the characters do some strategies. They are showing loyalty toward the country and mindset about the issues in the country.

Note: This article is written based on Mona Zamrika Putri's thesis under the supervision of Dr. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A., 1st advisor, and Desvalini Anwar, S. S., M. Hum., Ph.D., 2nd advisor.

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