

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

THESIS

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain
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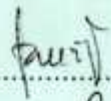



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ABSTRAK

Putri, Mona Zamrika. 2018. “ The Existence of an Immigrant In *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015): A Play Script by Lin- Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter”. Thesis. Universitas Negeri Padang.

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Skripsi ini merupakan analisis naskah drama *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) karya Lin- Manuel Miranda dan Jeremy McCarter. Masalah yang diangkat adalah sejauh mana naskah drama ini merefleksikan isu tentang karakter sebagai seorang imigran di Amerika dan perjuangannya untuk mendapatkan posisi dalam masyarakat. Selain itu penelitian ini juga melihat bagaimana karakter dan elemen-elemen yang terdapat dalam drama memberikan kontribusi dalam mengungkapkan isu perjuangan seorang immigrant. Tujuan analisa ini adalah untuk mengungkapkan sejauh mana naskah drama ini menggambarkan tentang perjuangan imigran dalam usaha membuktikan keberadaannya melalui prestasi dan posisi yang diraih. Analisis ini juga dihubungkan dengan konsep *power and knowledge* oleh Michel Foucault (1978) serta konsep *consciousness* oleh Sigmund Freud (1997). Hasil dari analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa ada dua cara yang dilakukan oleh karakter yang merupakan seorang immigrant untuk membuktikan keberadaannya yaitu melalui; kesetiaan terhadap negara dan pola pikirnya untuk membangun negara.

Kata Kunci: keberadaan, perjuangan, ilmu pengetahuan.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

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 the new place 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 immigrants. Historically, there are many waves of migration to America from time to time. They come from many different countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. European immigrants come to seek better economic opportunity and safety in a less crowded

environment while some, such as the Pilgrims come for religious freedom. Meanwhile, Africans are known as forced immigrants. They come to work in America as labor by their colonizer. According to Sheldon L. Greene (1976), the promise of land grants in America provided poor people with an opportunity to own and farm their own land. This is another reason why there are waves of immigration from many countries in the world to America. Within one hundred years, dozens of the immigrants that survive in their new settlements got established either as the colonists, and labors. Many of them later became citizens of America.

The existence of an immigrant within the American society is quite tight. Each of immigrants has their own community thus creates a border between one to another. Some of them even do not 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. The immigrant struggle and show their ability to get power and place not only in their community but also in whole America society. They compete against each other to be different so that known and recognized as the real American. Encyclopedia Britannica (2017) explains that *existence* is always about a being-in-the-world. The existence is dealing with human relationship with other. It is not just about life but how the human beings struggle to face the problems around them. The ways people managed to show their existence can be seen from their achievements. To become a successful immigrant in the new country, one must have a strong desire

and a particular target to achieve in order to get recognized and therefore a place in the society. Hard work and ability to grab any advantageous opportunities are also important to gain success in the new place.

The existence of immigrants can be seen through their success. This success is related to how far an immigrant is known by others- not just as an immigrant but as an American. There are many ways done by immigrant to be successful such as working harder, getting higher education, or being royal citizen by joining the army. They dedicate their mind and strength to build the country. Thus, they try to directly get involved in the government.

Some immigrants in American history are successful in showing their existence while some others failed. Those successful immigrants have a target and ambition in their new place. They worked harder than the others. Education and skill becomes a weapon to attract people in the new society. The theoretical physicist Albert Einstein, the newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, and the first US Secretary of State Madeline Albright are proof of successful immigrant in America history. The successful immigrants change people's mindset about immigrants which are often considered uneducated or unskilled. Therefore, immigrant was recognized just as American. Hence, they are forgotten as immigrant.

The issue about existence of an immigrant is interesting to be analyzed. The successful immigrants change people's opinion through their success. There are many

literary works that expose how the immigrants rise to get power and show their existence in a new country. One of them is in the play *Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin- Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter. Through the play, they show the readers the attitudes and quality of the protagonist in order to prove his existence as a successful immigrant. The writers expose how the successful Scotland immigrant in America becomes one of America Founding Father and the first Treasury Secretary.

1.2 The Existence of an Immigrant

There are two keywords to form the terminology in this study. They are *immigrant* and *existence*. On Heritage Dictionary (2017), *immigrant* is the person who leaves one country to settle permanently in another country in order to find better life. While Speara (2017), Indonesia's Higher Education Directorate, Ministry of Education and Culture Dictionary defines *existence* as the state of existing.

In this study, the existence of an immigrant is the act done by an immigrant to be received and avowed as the real America within their new society. The immigrant struggles to prove his quality in competing in any ass of life in order to be equal with others. He works hard more than others for the sake of himself and the country he lives in. He serves the country and builds it. He shows his quality through his carrier in the army and in government. He becomes an important figure. He got his success without asking or begging to others but by working it out by himself.

1.3 A Brief Description of the Author's Biography

1. 3. 1 Lin-Manuel Miranda

Lin- Manuel Miranda is an American actor, composer, lyricist, and writer. He was born on January 16, 1980 in New York, US. His parents, Luz Towns and Luis A. Miranda, Jr. are Puerto Rican. His mother is a clinical psychologist while his father is a consultant to the New York City mayor Ed Koch. He was raised in a heavily Hispanic neighborhood of northern Manhattan and educated at a public school for gifted children on the Upper East Side. He was graduated from Hunter Collage Elementary and Hunter Collage High School. After that, he continued to study on theater in Wesleyan University (Broadway, 2015)

Lin-Manuel Miranda loves hip-hop music more than any genre. He starts scribbling the lyrics while studying at school. He wrote such as jingles which later used for Eliot Spitzer's gubernatorial campaign in 2006. Throughout his day in university, he performed a hip-hop comedy troupe named 'Freestyle Love Supreme'. He is also scribbled the earliest drafts for his first musical theater *In the Heights*. It is about three days in the life of resident of Washington Heights, a neighborhood in Manhattan. The first show was held on March 2008 in Broadway and lead role by Miranda himself. The musical blended hip-hop and salsa with the origin music and lyrics by Miranda and the book written by Quiara Alegría Hudes. The musical won two Drama Desk Awards, four Tony Awards in 2008- including best musical and best original score. The show as well took home Grammy Award for its Original

Broadway Cast Album in 2009 and nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for drama. Miranda played Charlie Kringas at City Center Encores! production of *Merrily We Roll Along* in 2012. It can be heard on the Cast Recording which released by PS Classics. He also appeared in the 2014 City Center Encores! Off-Center production of *tick, tick... BOOM!* as Jonathan. Afterward, on September 20015 Miranda was announced as a winner of MacArthur Foundation “genius grant”. Then in 2016, he contributed to the soundtrack for the Disney animated film *Moana* (2016). He earned his first Academy Award nomination for the song “How Far I’ll Go”.

Furthermore, in 2015 Lin- Manuel Miranda wrote another musical theater entitled *Hamilton: The Revolution*. It has known as his best work. The musical is about the America Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton, who rose from obscures origins on the small Caribbean island of Nevis become leader of U.S. statesman and the first U.S. treasury secretary. The story itself is based on biography of Alexander Hamilton written by Ron Chernow in 2004. Miranda is directly involved in the musical by role Alexander Hamilton. The musical opened Off-Broadway in January 2015 at New York City’s Public Theater. The show got a huge success and led it to an early move to Broadway in July. The play was also awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2016, and received an unprecedented 16 Tony nominations at the same time. The production of the show eventually won 11 Tonys’, falling one short of the record. The play was named as the best musical of the year and Miranda, on the other hand, won

best book and best original score. Henry Cabot Lodge, who edited a collection of Hamilton's papers, wrote:

“A bunch of people from a bunch of backgrounds had to come together to make it work, and they did this so well that an even bigger bunch of people from yet more backgrounds flocked to see it. Alexander Hamilton would have admired the unifying power of the show based on his life, and would have felt vindication”. (p.2)

The musical is not only about the revolution of America but also everything in it; the countries and the people. The show presents the important figure in America history from another point of view. Hip-hop as a genre display gives a power for every people from every background. The country evolves as the people's mind about nation, immigrants, and hip-hop music. The result of the musical was energetic and infectious, and it featured a racially diverse cast.

1. 3. 2 Jeremy McCarter

Jeremy McCarter is a journalist, writer, director, and producer. He was born in 1976. He studies history in Harvard University. He is the author of *Young Radicals* (2017), a story of idealistic Americans fighting for their ideals. He is also the co-author of *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015), with Lin-Manuel Miranda. He is creator and leader of the Public Forum series of performance and conversation at Public Theater in New York. He leads the other actors, activists, writers, scholars, musicians, and community leaders in America to explore the intersection of arts and

society. In 2005, he wrote the liner notes for the cast recording of Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*. Later, on the band's national tour in 2008, he directed radio plays that opened for The Magnetic Fields. He writes for *New York* magazine, *Newsweek*, and *The New York Times* about culture and politics as well. Today, Jeremy lives in Chicago with his wife and baby girl.

1.4 Hamilton: The Revolution

The play *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter reflects the issue of immigrant existence. Existence of an immigrant in this analysis is the act done by the immigrant to be received and avowed equally with other citizen in the society. The protagonist, Alexander Hamilton is a representative of the immigrants in America who is successfully shows his existence in society. He is an orphan immigrant in foreign country that has nothing and knows no one. However, the protagonist is a smart young man. He starts his live from zero point as a foreigner. He proves that he can compete in any aspect of live equal as others in society. Many people underestimate him since his background as an immigrant, yet he alters their perspective about it. He works hard more than other for the sake of himself and the country. He serves the country and builds it. He shows his quality through his carrier in army and in government. He becomes an important figure; the Captain, the Right Hand Man of the President and the First Treasury Secretary. He got the success without asking or begging to other but just working.

The existence of an immigrant in this analysis is shown through two ways; loyalty and mindset.

The protagonist's loyalty can be seen through his contribution to the country. He makes choice to be a soldier. He gives solution to the problem in the country. He cares about freedom of slavery and equality for immigrant. He makes decision to work in the field with other as a leader instead of just gives the order. He makes changes of people's mind about immigrant which changes the country.

Hamilton is a smart young man. He gives his idea about the issues in the country. He proves that he has commitment about his idea. He gives his strength for the state. He learns to deal with negative thoughts. He respects every advice from the other as a lesson.

1.5 Problem of the Study

Existence of an immigrant arises as an important issue in Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015). Thus, there are some researches questions used to analyze existence immigrant which are formulated as follow:

1. How far does the protagonist in the play *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) expose the issue about existence of an immigrant?
2. To what extend do the protagonist, setting, plot or conflict support the issue about existence of an immigrant?

1.6 Purpose of Study

The study is going to find out how far the play *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) reveals the existence of an immigrant. It is also intended to find out how characters, setting, plot or conflict contribute in revealing the meaning of the existence of an immigrant.

1.7 Previous Study

The analysis of *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) that focuses on analyzing about existence of an immigrant has not been found yet. However, there are two studies that related to this analysis and give contribution and inspiration in analyzing the play. First is the study by Sabrina A. Abid (2012), entitled *The Pursuit of Happiness: The State of the American Dream in Suzan-Lori Parks's Topdog/ Underdog*, and the second study by John S. Bak (2004), entitled *Critism On A Streetcar Named Desire*.

The study by Sabrina A. Abid (2012), entitled *The Pursuit of Happiness: The State of the American Dream in Suzan-Lori Parks's Topdog/ Underdog* reveals how devastating not obtaining the dream. This study deals with the concept of 'money relation' by Jon Dietrick (2012). It focuses to the protagonist. Sabrina A. Abid asserts that economic and social mobility are the aspects that influence American Dream in Suzan-Lori Parks's *Topdog/ Underdog*. She also addresses the relevant criticism of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels which is stated in "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," capitalism extracts a high cost from the worker by debasing

the worth of the laborer. The protagonist and setting of the play show how to increase awareness of the impact of man-made institutions on consciousness also a family that is unified by money, not emotion. Money dominates the way the protagonist perceives the world. The result of the study shows that the pursuit of the American dream of the protagonist destroys their relationship.

Second study by John S. Bak (2004), entitled *Criticism On A Streetcar Named Desire*. He gets that the play *On A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams is a social drama. The analysis of the play is related to the concept of mental disintegration by Freudian (1941). The focus of the study is naturalistic struggle for cultural hegemony and though dropping of the protagonist. He used setting and the protagonist behavior in order to reveal the meaning of the text. In his study, he divides it into three branches; those who see Streetcar as a study of blood knowledge, hero versus antihero, and villain versus victim. The result of the study shows that the play is dealing with the confrontation between culture and power in human society.

Both of those studies give contributions and inspirations in analyzing the topic existence of an immigrant in the play *Hamilton: The Revolution* (2015) by Lin-Manuel Miranda. This study uses fictional devices such as characters, plot (conflict), and setting as those related studies above in order to reveal the meaning of existence of an immigrant from the text.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

The analysis about existence of an immigrant in this study is dealing to the concept of power/knowledge by Michel Foucault. Foucault proposed that ‘Power is everywhere’ and ‘comes from everywhere’; neither an agency nor a structure (Foucault 1998: 63). Power, in Foucault is based on knowledge and utilize by knowledge. It is impossible for people without knowledge to have power while knowledge itself is the power. On the other side, power recreates its own fields through knowledge. Michel Foucault in his book *The History of Sexuality Volume I* says that:

“Modern humanism is therefore mistaken in drawing this line between knowledge and power. Knowledge and power are integrated with one another, and there is no point in dreaming of a time when knowledge will cease to depend on power; this is just a way of reviving humanism in a utopian guise. It is not possible for power to be exercised without knowledge, it is impossible for knowledge not to engender power”. (p.52)

This statement shows that power and knowledge are connected with other. Power shows who we are. Knowledge makes people to have power. It shows that more knowledge that people have, the more control he is able to exercise upon others. The knowledge can be a reference that how the people are valuable in a society which seen from the power.

Foucault asserts that power and knowledge accompanied by one another. Martin A. Hewet (2004) in study about *Michel Foucault: power/knowledge and epistemological prescriptions* says that :

“... Power relations are ‘imminent’ -they are not exterior to other kinds of relations that operate in social relations. Relations of power are not in a position of exteriority with respect to other types of relationships (economic processes, knowledge relationships, sexual relations), but are imminent in the latter; they are the immediate effects of the divisions, inequalities, and disequilibrium which occur in the latter, and conversely they are internal conditions of these differentiations”. (p.5)

The quotation above shows that power has an absolute value which cannot be inherited through any relationship. Economic, sexual, and knowledge can be seen as the instrument of knowledge. Power is not a social status acquired by society; however a strength of those instruments inside. Power is not exterior to other kinds of relations that operate in social relations. In other words, this power cannot be seen and shared but can be measured.

Knowledge as an important instrument has a role for someone to reach power. The term power and knowledge use by Foucault is signified. Power is constituted through accepted forms of knowledge, scientific understanding and truth in real life. Diane Watson (2016) in her study about *Knowledge Itself Is Power: Sir Francis Bacon 16s Lawyer and Philosopher*, states that knowledge itself is power. He means that knowledge is more powerful than physical strength. Knowledge can

create power and no great work can be done without knowledge. Knowledge is a main factor of powerless people to achieve the dreams and the life aims. The more knowledge a person has, the more powerful he becomes.

The analysis of the text also relates to the concept of consciousness by Sigmund Freudian. According to Freud (1985), human's behavior and personality were obtain from the unique and constant interaction of conflicting psychological forces which operate at three different levels of awareness: the preconscious, the conscious, and the unconscious. While Mark Solms, from the Freudian analysis, represents a kind of internal sensory modality which perceives the processes occurring within us. Solms (1997) writes:

“We are aware of the natural processes occurring within our own selves, which are represented to us in the form of our subjective consciousness. We are aware of nothing else. These are the only constituents of the envelope of conscious awareness, which defines the limits of human experience”. (p.685)

It shows that events in the past influence the action and decision in future. These are signs of learning process and aware of mistakes. The awareness occurs because of knowing the mistakes of process that made by self. It comes from one's self without warning from others. The awareness of knowledge is a kind of human's consciousness. It shows that human need knowledge in life. Knowledge is gained through awareness of something that important and purpose in this life.

In this analysis, the protagonist shows the importance of knowledge in order to state his power in the new place. He gets the power because he is aware about knowledge itself. He gets position that shows his power. Knowledge and power are two prominent things from him to show who he is. He learns from his owns' and others' experiences to be better and best. The successful of showing the existence of the protagonist reveal through the position he gets as an important figure in America. In this point, the protagonist shows that he gets the power because of his knowledge. He uses the knowledge as a bullet while the power is his gun. He uses knowledge and skills to achieve his target.

Analyzing the play script is also supported by using context-based interpretation. Guerin (2005) states that context-based interpretation is the approach of analyzing and interpreting of the text. It is based on circumstances of culture, history, political and social. It means that the correlation of some fictional devices such as character, plot, setting and meaning of circumstances help the reader to reveal the meaning of the play. The analysis of the play itself will focus on the text. However, as a biographical fiction of an America Founding Father, it is also involved by phenomenon that happened during America Revolution.

The analysis of this play-script is also contributed by its fictional devices such as character, plot, and setting. Character gives big contributed to reveal the meaning the play script. According to Bennet and Royle (2004: 60), characters are “the life of the literature” which means the core of the story. It designates and entity, individual or

collective – normally human or human like. It is possible for reader to utter the meaning of the play by focusing on the protagonist's behavior, action, though, and conversation. The protagonist in this play script is a man named Alexander Hamilton. The play show his effort to reach his success from an immigrant become an America First Treasury Secretary.

Another fictional device use to analyze the play-script is plot (conflict). Conflict gives an important role to create the plot. It uses to express a resistance of protagonist in the story in order to achieve his aims or dreams. Based on Bokesch (2008: 54), conflict can be identified into four; man versus self, man versus man, man versus nature, and man versus society. The protagonist in this play faces internal and external conflicts. He struggles to face America society through every act and decision he made.

Setting as another fictional device of the play also gives contribution in analyzing the script. Lynch (2003) states that setting consists of works' natural, manufactured, political, cultural and temporal environment, including everything the protagonist know and own. Setting is not only about time and place taken in the story however it explaining the situation and the problems facing by character. It affects every action and decision taken by the protagonist which is greatly influences the storyline. The setting of the play is related to the events around American Independence Days which is involved by the protagonist Alexander Hamilton. The story shows how Hamilton attempted to fight for independence of American government and also its people. In