

**DETERMINISM AND FREEDOM REFLECTED IN DAVID NICHOLLS'S  
ONE DAY NOVEL (2009): A PHILOSOPHY OF DETERMINISM**

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**ABSTRACT**

**LINDA ARI WIJAYANTI. A320090293, DETERMINISM AND FREEDOM REFLECTED IN DAVID NICHOLLS'S ONE DAY NOVEL (2009), A PHILOSOPHY OF DETERMINISM, RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA, 2013**

This study is about determinism and freedom in *One Day* novel. The objective of this study is to apply the determinism approach to analyze the determinism and freedom in search for existence of women's existence in *One Day* novel. The data source come from primary data source that is the novel and the secondary data source are references and data or materials related to the research picking up from the books and the internet related with the novel. The method of the data collection is descriptive analysis.

The writer uses Barret's major point of determinism and freedom to answer the problem of the study. The study is descriptive qualitative research whose data are taken from novel. The technique of the collecting data is library research, while the technique of analyzing data is descriptive.

The study comes to the following conclusions. Firstly, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, and theme are related to each other and form the unity. Secondly, based on the determinism analysis the writer wants to say that humans only have the freedom to choose and do all they want, and they can only hope and strive in order to their desires could be achieved and their hopes come true, sometimes what they choose and what they to do give a major influence on their future or the rest of their lives but on the other hand everything is determined by God, including, life and death, fate and destiny, fortune and mate.

Key word: Determinism and Freedom, One Day, Philosophy of determinism.

#### A. INTRODUCTION

*One Day* is an interesting novel for many readers written by David Nicholls in 2009. Encompassing the relationship between Emma Morley and Dexter Mayhem, their friendship, love and life story from time to time. This novel talks about Dexter's and Emma's life and love story that complicated, begins from friendship until lose contact, marriage and death of Emma. Which was all that closely related to determinism and freedom.

David Nicholls is a writer of *One Day* novel, he was born in 1966 in Eastleigh, Hampshire. David Nicholls attended Toynbee Comprehensive School and Barton Peveril Sixth Form College, before going to the University of Brisbol in 1983 to study English Literature and Drama. Before he become a famous writer or novelist, he is an actor and scenarist. David Nicholls trained as an actor before making the switch to writing. His TV credits include the third series of *Cold Feet*, *Rescue Me*, and *I Saw You*, as well as a much-praised modern version of *Much Ado About Nothing* and an adaptation of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, both for BBC TV. David has continued to write for film and TV as well as writing novels, and he has twice been nominated for BAFTA awards. David's best selling first novel, *Starter For Teen*, was selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club in 2004, and David wrote the screenplay for the film version, which was released in 2006 and starred James McAvoy. *One Day* novel published in Great Britain in 2009 by Hodder and Stoughton, an Hachette UK company.

There are four reasons that make this novel is interesting. Firstly, this study is very important to be conducted because of the determinism and freedom of the novel, this novel have implication for the readers about how important about a destiny or fate that they certainly did not know before, that they could only hope, pray and strive to reach their desires. but they also need to know that this way of life determined by Allah, so that they must prepare their self for all possibilities that occur because sometimes life is not always like what we want. Secondly, find out the meaning of the determinism and freedom in this novel. In this study which is the main point is try to describe the determinism and freedom in this novel. Thirdly, the present writer will be a teacher and this study is so needed to be done to widen, enlarge, increase and insert more understanding insight of knowledge as a professional teacher. Finally, the reason is to provide theoretical framework in the study of literature in English Department.

Determinism approach shows that humans only have the freedom to choose and do all they want, and they can only hope and strive in order to their desires could be achieved and their hopes come true, sometimes what they choose and what they to do give a major influence on their future or the rest of their lives but on the other hand everything is determined by God, including, life and death, fate and destiny, fortune and mate.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will observe *One Day* novel by using Determinism Approach. So, the writer constructs the title Determinism and Freedom Reflected In David Nicholls's *One Day* Novel (2009): A Philosophy of Determinism.

## B. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer analyze the Determinism and Freedom in *One Day* novel by using qualitative method. The study of determinism and freedom in this research paper will cover:

### 1. Type of the Study

The type of this study is qualitative research in the form of library.

### 2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *One Day* novel by David Nicholls was published in 2009 by Hodder and Stoughton.

### 3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data sources namely primary data and secondary data source.

#### a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the *One Day* novel written by David Nicholls.

#### b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source includes references and data or materials related to the research picking up from the books and the internet.

### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

- a. Reading the novel
- b. Taking notes of the important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion..

### 5. Techniques of the Data Analysis

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows, the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on Philosophy of Determinism approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of determinism and freedom.

## C. DETERMINISM AND FREEDOM THEORY

### 1. Notion of Determinism

According to Barrett in his book *Determinism and Freedom* (1958: 47), determinism seems to me to make very good sense, for it isolates the central issue: namely, the question of the predictability of phenomena, and moreover predictability in detail. Determinism cannot afford to leave any loose ends lying around. Small and great are inextricably linked in the happenings of nature and

history and unpredictable detail might trigger an enormous explosion, and empires and battles do sometimes hang on a straw.

The theological determinism (soft determinism) or predestination belief that events are determined or necessitated by God. One form of the traditional belief insists that owing to his omnipotence, God controls the occurrence of things. Another form asserts that his omniscience, making possible his foreknowledge of future events, affects the occurrence of such events. There are also nontraditional forms. Throughout the history of Islamic and Jewish philosophy, the debate over predestination was centra according to Smedes in Huyssteen's book (Encyclopedia of Science and Religion, 2003: 217)

## 2. Types Of Determinism

Determinism comes in different forms. According to James in Barrett (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 117), types of determinism, as follows:

### a. *Soft Determinism*

According to Mill in Barrett (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 119), determinism is compatible not only with judgments of moral responsibility about this or that particular action flowing from an unimpeded desire, but also, within limits, with moral judgments about the character of human beings. According to Edwards in Barret (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 119), in Hume-Mill-Schlick theory, there is no antithesis between determinism and moral responsibility. When we judge a person morally responsible for a certain action, we do indeed presuppose that he was a free agent at the time of the action. But the freedom presupposed is not the contra causal freedom about which indeterminists go into such ecstatic raptures. It is nothing more than the freedom already mentioned the ability to act according to one's choices or desires. Since determinism is compatible with freedom in this sense, it is also compatible with moral responsibility. In other words, the world is after all wonderful: we can be determinists and yet go on punishing our enemies and owe children, and we can go on blaming ourselves, all without a bad intellectual conscience.

### b. *Hard Determinism*

According to Edwards in Barrett (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 120), Holbach writes "You will say that I feel free. This is an illusion, which may be compared to that of the fly in the fable, who, lighting upon the pole of a heavy carriage, applauded himself for directing its course. Man, who thinks himself free, is a fly who imagines he has power to move the universe, while he is himself unknowingly carried along by it." Hard determinists admit that our desires and choices do on occasion influence the course of our lives, according to Edwards in Barrett (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 121). Every man, being what he is and placed in the circumstances which for the moment obtain, but which on their part also arise by strict necessity, can absolutely never do anything else than just what at that moment he does do. Accordingly, the whole course of a man's life, in all its incidents great and small, is as necessarily predetermined as the course of a clock, according to Schopenhauer in Barrett (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 120).

### 3. Notion of Freedom

There is genuine freedom in the world. When we observe it from the outside, it takes the form of quantum-mechanical unpredictability; when we observe it from within, we call it our free will. We know that the reason why our behavior is unpredictable from the outside is that we have ultimate freedom of choice. This freedom is the very essence of our personalities, the treasure of our lives. It is given us as the first element of the world we come into, according to Turchin (1991). According to Ballard (1911: 214), the real freedom of true determinism bids him like what he likes, and choose what he himself prefers. According to Edwards in Barrett (Determinism and Freedom, 1958: 119), in Hume-Mill-Schlick theory, freedom is the ability to act according to one's choices or desires.

## D. RESEARCH FINDING

This analysis is presented directly through two points of Barrett's theory, which are determinism and freedom.

### 1. Determinism

Determinism is believe that human beings could plan and have the freedom to choose what they want but in the end it is God who determines. Having elaborated the concept of determinism as a believe that human beings could plan and have the freedom to choose what they want but in the end it is God who determines is also well reflected in the story of Dexter and Emma in *One Day* novel.

Determinism and freedom can be seen from the story of Dexter and Emma in *One Day* novel from their first meeting until the end of their story, where everything happens sequentially in the same day and date is July 15.

It can be seen in the beginning of the meeting of Dexter and Emma and then they become a close friend. Dexter and Emma encounter in their graduation party, they meet in a drunken state and they do not know each other, but they sleep together in Emma's flat. After the meeting then they spent the remaining time of the day at the top of the hill of Arthur's Seat, they talking offering up information about themselves, after that they split up, Emma walks back to her flat then suddenly Dexter pursues Emma to the street, they exchange phone numbers and kissing in the street near the hill. That occurred on July 15 in 1988. The stories above are not a coincidence and it started the story of Dexter and Emma, which refers to determinism.

"15 July 1988." (OD. 2009: 3)

"Here she was, after four romantically barren years, finally, finally in bed with someone she really liked, had liked since she'd first seen him at a party in 1984, and in just few hours he'd be gone. Forever probably." (One Day. 2009: 10)

"Emma & Dexter spent the rest of that afternoon on the hillside laughing and talking, offering up information about themselves..." (OD. 2009: 428)

“As they approached the park exit, Emma became aware that they would soon be saying goodbye, and that there was every chance that they would never see each other again.” (OD. 2009: 428)

“She rooted in her wallet for a scrap of paper, found a supermarket receipt, and handed it over, then dictated her number, her parent’s number in Leeds, their address and her own address in Edinburgh with special emphasis on the correct postcode, and in return he wrote down his.” (OD. 2009: 434)

“..... they kissed in the street as all around them people hurried home in the summer light, and it was the sweetest kiss that either of them would ever know. This is where it all begins. Everything starts here, today. And then it was over.” (OD. 2009: 435)

Then, when Dexter divorced with his wife Sylvie Cope, then he follows Emma to Paris and they met in Paris. Dexter intends to unite his love with Emma, but when Dexter express his feelings and kiss her, apparently Emma already has a boyfriend named Jean Pierre. Eventually Emma decides to leave her lover and pick Dexter, because Emma actually just loves Dexter and they also love each other. In the end, their love could unite and they can live together. The memories occurred on 15 July in 2001.

“So there’s a bright side, is there? To your wife running off with your best mate.” (OD. 2009: 334)

“Oh fantastic. The divorce goes through in September, just before our anniversary. Almost two whole years of wedded bliss.” (OD. 2009: 332)

“Sunday 15 July 2001. Belleville, Paris.” (OD. 2009: 325)

“He was due to arrive on 15<sup>th</sup> July on the 15.55 from Waterloo.” (OD. 2009: 325)

“The crowd was thinning out now and she was starting wonder if he had missed the train when she finally saw him.” (OD. 2009: 326)

“.....he was surprised to notice how much she had changed in the eight weeks since he had last seen her, the two months since everything had happened..... Ten metres. What would he say, and how would he say it? Was it a yes or no?” (OD. 2009: 327)

“...when suddenly Dexter’s hand was on her shoulder, then he was in front of her somehow, and kissing her..... And he was kissing her again...” (OD. 2009: 339, 340)

“Fine, but Dexter, I have to tell you.... I’ve sort of met someone... A man. A guy. I’m seeing this guy. He’s called Jean Pierre.” (OD. 2009: 340)

“My new boyfriend.” (OD. 2009: 345)

“Why do you think I came to see you, Em?..... I came to talk about what happened. You and me, finally getting together..... And I think you're worth more than that too. That's why I came here. You're wonder, Em.” (OD. 2009: 342, 345)

“He isn't coming round. I told him not to come round. I told him I had tonsillitis.” (OD. 2009: 348)

“They smiled at each other. Then, as if an idea had suddenly occurred to her, she quickly crossed the room in three long strides, took his face between her hands, and kissed him.” (OD. 2009: 348)

“They kissed like this for some time.....then put her arms around him once more.” (OD. 2009: 348)

“I mean it, if you lead me on or let me down or go behind my back, I will murder you.” (OD. 2009: 348)

Then, when Emma and Dexter live together, open a cafe that finally famous, and get married. The memories occurred and begin on 15 July 2002 and 2003.

“Monday 15 July 2002.” (OD. 2009: 353)

“Emma, will you be my flat-mate?” (OD. 2009: 353)

“Dex, it's all that I've lived for.” (OD. 2009: 353)

“Maybe we should think of buying somewhere together.” (OD. 2009: 355)

“But so much effort is required to pretend that they don't want together that it has recently seemed inevitable that one of them will crack. She just hadn't expected it to be Dexter.” (OD. 2009: 359)

“The café would be the kind of place where people came to ostentatiously write their novels.....He formed a limited company, his second after Mayhem TV plc, with Emma as his company secretary and, in a small but significant way, his co-investor.....They opened in April.” (OD. 2009: 357, 358)

“And now the place has become fashionable, albeit in a more sedate, domesticated way than he is used to.” (OD. 2009: 358)

“They were getting get married in November, a small, discreet winter wedding at a registry office.” (OD. 2009: 365)

Then, when Emma die from an accident when Emma and Dexter make a pact to look at houses they will buy in the afternoon. This memory occurred on the 15th of July in 2004.

“Thursday 15 July 2004.” (OD. 2009: 371)

“I've arranged for us to view this house at five o'clock. I'll text you the address, so, who knows. We'll see. Period property, good-sized rooms. It's got a breakfast bar apparently. I know you always dreamt of one. That's all. Except to say I love you and don't worry. Whatever it is you're worrying about, don't. That's everything. See you there at five. Love you. Bye.” (OD. 2009: 383)

“..... when she comes to rest on the roadside verge with her face against the wet pavement, her first instinct is to look for her bicycle, which has somehow disappeared from beneath her. She tries to move her head, but is unable to do so. She wants to take off her helmet, because people are looking at her now, faces craning over her and she looks ridiculous in a bicycle helmet, but the people crouching over her seem fearful and are asking her over and over again are you alright are you alright... Then Emma Mayhew dies, and everything that she thought or felt vanishes and is gone forever.” (OD. 2009: 384, 385)

## 2. Freedom

Freedom is the right to choose or act in accordance with what is desired by someone. Freedom is also commonly called as free will.

Freedom can be seen when Dexter and Emma choose to exchanging letters for exchanging news and devote their longing for each other, they exchange letters for two years in 1989 and 1990. They choose to exchanging letters to keep their communication and in order that not lose the news between each other or in other words is a pen pals.

“ 15 July 1989.” (OD. 2009: 16)

“ 15 July 1990.” (OD. 2009: 36)

“ So they were pen pals now, Emma composing long, intense letters crammed with jokes and underlining, forced banter and barely concealed longing; two-thousand-word acts of love on air-mail paper. Letters, like compilation tapes, were really vehicles for unexpressed emotions and she was clearly putting far too much time and energy into them. In return, Dexter sent her postcards with insufficient postage....., but still she would slip the postcards in the pocket of a heavy coat on long soulful walks on Ilkley Moor...” (OD. 2009: 21-22)

Then, when Dexter chooses to follow Emma to Paris and declare his love for Emma through a kiss. Besides, freedom can also be seen when Emma prefers to leave her lover Jean Pierre and pick Dexter so they can be together and unite their love. Finally, it all makes them unite as lovers or even husbands and wives after so long they become friends.



“What would he say, and how would he say it? Was it a yes or no?”  
(OD. 2009: 327)

“...when suddenly Dexter’s hand was on her shoulder, then he was in front of her somehow, and kissing her..... And he was kissing her again....” (OD. 2009: 339, 340)

“Why do you think I came to see you, Em?..... I came to talk about what happened. You and me, finally getting together..... And I think you're worth more than that too. That's why I came here. You're wonder, Em.” (OD. 2009: 342, 345)

“They kissed like this for some time.....then put her arms around him once more.” (OD. 2009: 348)

Then, when Dexter asks Emma to live together with him and Emma choose to agree to stay with Dexter. Besides, freedom can be seen when Emma proposes her idea to Dexter to open a cafe and Dexter also approves the proposal to open a cafe that eventually the cafe become very famous for their hard work. Freedom can also be seen when they choose to get married.

“Emma, will you be my flat-mate?” (OD. 2009: 353)

“Dex, it’s all that I’ve lived for.” (OD. 2009: 353)

“Maybe we should think of buying somewhere together.” (OD. 2009: 355)

“The idea was hatched in Paris..... It had been Emma’s ideas, sitting outside a café near the Parc des Buttes Chaumont in the north-east.” (OD. 2009: 356)

“And now the place has become fashionable, albeit in a more sedate, domesticated way than he is used to.” (OD. 2009: 358)

“They were getting get married in November, a small, discreet winter wedding at a registry office.” (OD. 2009: 365)

“Acknowledge second wedding. Get right this time.” (OD. 2009: 369)

Then, when they choose to look at the house they will buy that afternoon, if only they do not go that afternoon Emma may not be die. Besides, freedom can be seen when they decide to get married and hope that they can live happily forever, but it turns out everything is not the way they want because Emma die and leaves Dexter forever.

“I’ve arranged for us to view this house at five o'clock. I'll text you the address, so, who knows. We'll see. Period property, good-sized rooms. It's got a breakfast bar apparently. I know you always dreamt of one.

That's all. Except to say I love you and don't worry. Whatever it is you're worrying about, don't. That's everything. See you there at five. Love you. Bye.” (OD. 2009: 383)

“They were getting get married in November, a small, discreet winter wedding at a registry office.” (OD. 2009: 365)

“Happier than ever been. Pause wile guests vom in unison. Acknowledge second wedding. Get right this time.” (OD. 2009: 369)

“Then Emma Mayhew dies, and everything that she thought or felt vanishes and is gone forever.” (OD. 2009: 384, 385)

## E. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### 1. Conclusion

After analyzing David Nicholls’s *One Day* novel using determinism and freedom analysis, the researcher then comes to the following conclusion. The first, from the structural analysis in *One Day* novel, the story shows that life is a choice but humans can only choose or plan everything what they want but not to determine the outcome of any plan or their desires. Humans are free to choose what they want to do but they also have to remember that everything in this world belongs to God and humans can only plan because in the end everything is determined by God, they must prepare themselves spiritually to face everything that does not fit with the plans and what they want. The human life that has been determined, humans can only try to change these provisions in the future because of what people did in the past was very influential to the future life, although sometimes there is something in human life that cannot be changed because it has become absolute provision of God that can be changed such as a person’s life and death. The determinism of the story of Dexter and Emma is strongly influenced by the freedom that is in them to do or choose to act like they want to do, but in the end of the story remains God disposes because they do not have the power to determine their wishes in the end. The elaboration above shows that the structure elements in *One Day* novel are in a solid unity.

The second, based on Determinism Approach, the determinism analysis in *One Day* novel namely soft determinism and freedom are interrelated to each other, that is the main point that closely related to the story. It can be seen from the issue, that is determinism and freedom. The soft determinism can support the issue because there are fact in this novel that prove this issue and this approach. The elaboration above show that the determinism and freedom analysis in *One Day* novel are in solid unity. It is that made the writer interested to analyze this novel. The writer found many thing in this novel that suitable with this title, so the writer choice this title. The conclusion is that the story of Emma and Dexter in the *One Day* novel is a reflection of the soft determinism and freedom, the story shows that humans only have the freedom to choose and do all they want, and they can only hope and strive in order to their desires could be achieved and their hopes come true, sometimes what they choose and

what they to do give a major influence on their future or the rest of their lives but on the other hand everything is determined by God, including, life and death, fate and destiny, fortune and mate.

## 2. Suggestion

After analyzing *One Day* novel, the writer suggest that it is an interesting literary work written by David Nicholls. The content of this story focuses on love and friendship that closely related to determinism and freedom. This story is suitable to be analyzed from other perspective, such as psychological or sociological perspectives with issue "Openness in Friendship" and psychoanalysis perspective with issue "Dexter's Repentance". This story gives useful lesson and worth to the reader such as spiritual, maturity, independence, and responsibility.

Finally, the researcher would like to suggest the other researcher to be better in understanding and analyzing the content of this story from the structural elements or from the other perspectives.

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