

BEATS GENERATION AS REFLECTED IN JACK KEROUACH'S ON THE ROAD(AN ANALYSIS OF STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS)

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Abstract

This research analyzes about stream of consciousness theory seen in *On The Road* by Jack Kerouac by using stream of consciousness theory. The novel becomes the data source of this research. As one of the member of Beats Generation, Jack Kerouac is bounded by its characteristic in writing a novel. Beat Generation and the experiences as Beats were the starting point for Kerouac's work with *On the Road*. The main purpose of this research is to provide researcher interest in stream of consciousness study in literature with a collection of references delineating the analysis, the concept and the development of academic departments to the study. Moreover, the study of stream of consciousness in *On The Road* by Jack Kerouac deals with the analysis of the character's thought, ideas, and feeling in a continuous way from one character to another at a particular moment means the focus more on the inner life rather than on the outer side. In this point the writer tries to give some view of Jack Kerouac on manhood based on his style of writing. Through this research, the writer argues that Beats are youth that searching for freedom, skeptical youth, searching for meaning of life, music & literature lovers, drugs and sex, seeking for true love. In this stage, the writer will compare several quotes inside the data source and stream of consciousness and Beats Generation as supporting theory. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. It is aimed to explain how Jack Kerouac describes his ideal manhood based on his style of writing. Stream of Consciousness hold an important role in describing Jack Kerouac's male character because it is focus on character's feeling and thought by analyzing the character thought and feeling, the writer provide other researcher who is interested to discuss the same things.

Key words: Stream of Consciousness, *On The Road*, Beats Generation

INTRODUCTION

This technique was defined as the continuous flows of ideas, images, thoughts, and feelings of the characters or to move deeply into the human minds. An author would simply tell the reader what one of the characters was thinking. Stream-of-consciousness is a technique where by the author writes as though inside the minds of the characters. Since the ordinary person's mind jumps from one event to another, stream-of-consciousness tries to capture this phenomenon (Ries, 2011), (Amelia, 2021).

Stream of consciousness: A term coined by William James in *Principles of Psychology* (1890) to denote the flow of inner experiences. Now an almost indispensable term in literary criticism, it refers to that technique which seeks to depict the multitudinous thoughts and feelings which pass through the mind. In addition to this point, William James gives a description of the stream of consciousness as a certain moment in which a human mind gets a long train of thoughts and ideas without any interruption by the use of the usual methods of description and conservation (Prasetyo & Suharyanto, 2019), (Adam et al., 2020), (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019). The description of the association of ideas,

impressions, sensations, and memories in a freeway that can pass through someone's mind at any given time.

American writer Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* is now remembered as one of the defining novels of the Beat Generation – as well as a modern example of stream-of-consciousness writing. Originally written over a course of 3 weeks on *one* scroll of paper (deemed the 'original scroll'). As touched upon above, the Beat Movement was largely about attempting to discover meaning in the face of a world that seemed (to many) to be increasingly meaningless. The Beats reacted to a modern civilization that devalued the individual pursuit of meaning and instead gave precedence to productivity, "progress", and the reinforcement of tradition (Booch et al., 1998),(Kuswoyo & Susardi, 2016),(Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020). This movement later would affect him in describing his ideal manhood that would be discussed furtherly in following chapters.

The main purpose of this research is to provide researchers interest in stream of consciousness study in literature with a collection of references delineating the analysis(van Eijck, Michiel; Hsu, Pei-Ling; Roth, 2009)(Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020),(Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), the concept and the development of academic departments dedicated to the study. Moreover, the study of stream of consciousness in *On The Road* by Jack Kerouac deals with the analysis of the character's thought, ideas, and feeling in a continuous way from one character to another at a particular moment means the focus more on the inner life rather than on the outer side in which he presents a skeptical view of society(Fauzi, 2015).

The background of the research is that the researcher was interested to stream of consciousness study in psychological aspect that the author uses to deliver his thought about something. In this point the writer tries to give some view of Jack Kerouac on manhood based on his style of writing. (Adam et al., 2020),(Lusa et al., 2020).Here, he describes about his view what should men do in order to live their life as individual by using stream of consciousness style. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. It is aimed to explain how Jack Kerouac describes his ideal manhood based on his style of writing (Suwarni & Handayani, 2021)(Herison et al., 2019).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Stream of Consciousness

Since this research mainly discuss about stream of consciousness so it important to give deeper information about it and how it works in literary writing style. In simpler understanding stream of consciousness is a narrative device that attempts to give the written equivalent of the character's thought processes, either in a loose interior monologue. An author would simply tell the reader what one of the characters was thinking(Sintawati & Hartati, 2020).

This technique was defined as the continuous flows of ideas, images, thoughts, and feelings of the characters or to move deeply into the human minds without any stopped markers in which so many critical writers observed. An author would simply tell the reader what one of the characters was thinking (Ardyanto & Pamungkas, 2018). Stream-of-consciousness is a technique whereby the author writes as though inside the minds of the characters. Since the ordinary person's mind jumps from one event to another, stream-of-consciousness tries to capture this phenomenon(Amelia & Dintasi, 2019),(Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020).

Beats Generation

The Beats Generation was a time that most young people felt violated by society's intervention, they were tired of police always watching them and waiting for them to make a mistake. They were tired of being arrested for smoking marijuana, expressing their opinions and protesting (Jobli et al., 2011). These young people were raised during the depression and did not want to take on a different lifestyle outside of the "dishonest" society in which they now lived. Their feelings could have been a result of the psychological effects that WWII had on society. Some of these young people found happiness without getting involved with the "Beats" (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). On the other hand, many went for broke and found they had no where to turn. These are the people desiring change and the ones most influenced by Kerouac's literature.

Jack Kerouac Biography

Beats Generation and the experiences as Beats were the starting point for Kerouac's work with *On the Road*. It is important to give further information about his close relationship to this movement and how this movement construct his ideal man. It took Kerouac six years to find a publisher, but once on the market in 1957 *On the Road* was an immediate success (Sari & Putri, 2019). Jack rebelled against what he saw as the stifling, conformist cultural values of the 50's (Febrian & Fadly, 2021). He lived in a society that was less spiritual and more materialistic than the last generations society. This was the cutting edge of a literary movement that broke the back of censorship in this country. The "spontaneous bop prosody" (Rani, 2016) is a writing technique credited to Jack Kerouac. His technique draws from both "jazz music and the automatic writing style of surrealists" (Rianto, 2021). The interesting phase of this technique is that it "equals revision with repression". This idea for this type of writing came from a friend of Jack's who made the suggestion that he "write the way a painter might sketch (Phelia & Sinia, 2021). It also freed the writer from constraints who then could better articulate the truth.

METHOD

Interpreting Stage In Interpreting Stage, the writer interpretes data have been classified. At the end of this stage, the writer ensures the relevancy of problem formulation, objectives, and theoretical framework has been formulated (Kuswoyo & Audina, 2020)(Rido, 2011). **Analyzing Stage** In this stage, the writer analyzes the data based on the theories selected to answer the problem formulated in this research and corelated with the theories that the writer got from the sources. **Evaluating Stage** In this point, the writer reviews the analysis and all data included approach, theories, and concept has been applied. In addition, the writer scrutinizes all data in order to make sure that all the supporting data and the problem discussed have been organized properly (Cholifah et al., 2018). **Concluding Stage** This stage is the final stage of data analyzing technique. In this stage, the writer rechecks the entire data have been arranged included the issue raised up, theories to support the analysis, the analysis, and whether or not the problem has been answered. At the end, the writer draws conclusions as the results of analyzing into this thesis proposal. (Booch et al., 1998)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Jack Kerouac and Beats Generation

Since this research is mainly discuss about character's viewpoint on manhood as Seen in On Jack Kerouac's *The Road* by using stream of consciousness theory. It is important to give further understanding about relationship beats generation and himself and how this movement affect his creation of male should be. Kerouac wrote in a spontaneous prose, which sought to recreate the now. Sudden associations, parenthetical impulses and very few stops meant for a stream-of-consciousness-like read that mimicked the experience of the mind.

Beats Generation as Reflected in Jack Kerouac's *On The Road* (An Analysis of Stream of Consciousness)

As one of the member of Beats Generation, Jack Kerouac is bounded by its characteristic in writing a novel. Beats Generation and the experiences as Beats were the starting point for Kerouac's work with *On the Road*. It is important to give further analysis about his close relationship to this movement and how this movement construct his male character by using stream of consciousness theory.

Being Skeptical Youth

As stated before that Beats generation is generation of youth who is sick and tired with system. Too many wars must be faced. Too many regulation must be obeyed make their inner youth soul arise. They demand freedom. Doing what ever they wanted to do. Beat means to have all the blather knocked out of you by experience, suddenly seeing things as they are. Beats doesn't mean a broken spirit, on the contrary, it's scourged of external blathe. Here, n Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, the main character, Sal Paradise, experiences a similar situation. To resolve his internal conflict he adopts a lifestyle of travel, sampling other cultures in hopes that he, too, can live in the simple reality of people radically different from him. However, he overvalues these lifestyles, causing him further dissatisfaction with his own lifestyle. Kerouac tells Sal's story without excessive literary flourish, allowing the reader to clearly see Sal's change

Searching for Meaning of Life

As stated before *that* Beats generation kindly likes philosophy that belief life is adventure. As hot young blood, they assuming that life are more fun if in danger. Asuming that human just life onces. Beats generation is "out of the box" generation. Rather than stuck in the middle of nothingness they take a stand to do what ever they may do as youth. Sal seeks this newness through the people he meets and the places he discovers on the road. More than anything, Sal exaggerates the simplicity of minority life, putting them in a position of transcendental realness.

"These people were unmistakably Indians and were not at all like the Pedros and Panchos of silly civilized American lore—they had high cheekbones, and slanted eyes, and soft ways; they were not fools, they were not clowns, they were great, grave Indians and they were the source of mankind and the fathers of it" (Kerouac 280)

The passage above is represented in the manner of straight narration by the author, but it is clearly what the character feels and thinks, and it reflects the character's consciousness and inner thought. Not only does Sal romanticize Mexican-Americans, he does the same for the native people of Mexico. When Sal ventures with Dean into the wilderness he perceives Mexico as, he sees from a distance the indigenous people of Mexico. Sal labels this race as almost unearthly. In *On the Road*, Kerouac offers a new vision of America right from the first sentence.

Drugs and Sex

"I was beginning to despair. What I needed - what Terry needed, too - was a drink, so we bought a quart of California port for thirty-five cents and went to the railroad yards to drink. We found a place where hobos had drawn up crates to sit over fires. We sat there and drank the wine. (Kerouac; 11)

As stated before by Chandarlapaty that the "Beats" lifestyle consisted almost always of drug abuse and alcoholism making them in a different state of mind to write and perform. Through Sal narrative, the reader is brought to Sal's insight about life. To him Life in the cities is a series of juvenile encounters, of adolescent expectations of women, who are required to wait and serve, or drink and drugs, and male companionship—an extended fraternity party, or a shore binge by sailors. Whereas life on the road has a lyrical energy.

Seeking for True Love

Sal's life on the road is connected with the bohemian Beat culture, then the wish for a future family life is its "square" antithesis. Sal expresses the idea of traditional American suburban life towards the end of the story:

"All I hope, Dean, is someday we'll be able to live on the same street with our families and get to be couple of oldtimers together" (Road 239).

Stream-of-consciousness narrative can be a good way to really, really get into your characters' heads, to see what makes them tick. From having been travel companions, Sal is now ready for another kind of friendship, that is neighbourliness. Surprisingly enough, even rootless Dean aims to change his life in order to become domesticated and live quietly with one woman.

CONCLUSION

"Beats" lifestyle consisted almost always of drug abuse and alcoholism making them in a different state of mind to write and perform. (Liu et al., 2020) Through Sal narrative, the reader is brought to Sal's insight about life. To him Life in the cities is a series of juvenile encounters, of adolescent expectations of women, who are required to wait and serve, or drink and drugs, and male companionship—an extended fraternity party, or a shore binge by sailors. Whereas life on the road has a lyrical energy (Sintawati & Hartati, 2020), (Kananda, 2013).

Stream-of-consciousness narrative can be a good way to really, really get into your characters' heads, to see what makes them tick. From having been travel companions, Sal is now ready for another kind of friendship, that is neighbourliness. Surprisingly enough, even rootless Dean aims to change his life in order to become domesticated and live quietly with one woman (Novita & Husna, 2020). With his unique devices such as guiding phrases to his interior monologue, Jack Kerouac successfully overcomes the shortcomings of stream-of-consciousness novel of being incoherent and chaotic, and achieves great explicitness, coherence, vividness and surface unity in presenting the characters' inner world (Sintawati & Hartati, 2020).

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