

**AN EXISTENTIALISM ANALYSIS, THE JOKER'S RESISTANCE  
FOUND IN *THE SOLITAIRE MYSTERY* NOVEL BY JOSTEIN GAARDER**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

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The Degree of Bachelor in English Literature



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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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**AN EXISTENTIALISM ANALYSIS, THE JOKER'S RESISTANCE IN  
*THE SOLITAIRE MYSTERY* BY JOSTEIN GAARDER'S NOVEL**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The Solitaire Mystery* is a novel that shows Joker's resistance to Frode with his resistance. It happens because Joker wants to regain his existence and freedom. There is an interesting thing to be discussed. It is about existentialism. On Joker's resistance, he shows his existentialism through his activity. The result of Joker's resistance is Frode's death. It means Joker kills his creator with his statements that show his existentialism. Here, the writer analyzes two major problems in the Joker's resistance. They are the reason and the process of Joker's resistance. The reason of Joker's resistance happens because Joker realizes his existentialism. It means with his existentialism Joker tries to reveal a truth that concerns about his derivation and his creator. Finally, Joker finds Frode is his creator. The process of Joker's resistance happens in the Joker's banquet where all the dwarfs and Frode gather to celebrate Joker Day. There, Joker proclaims his existentialism in front of all the dwarfs. Finally, Joker succeeds to affect all the dwarfs to kill Frode. The writer uses qualitative research as the method. The approach used on this research is Sartre's existentialism theory. The writer analyzes the Joker's existentialism based on Sartre's perspective. It concerns with atheist existentialists' theory that shows they do not believe in God's existence and they consider that humans just exist in this world without God's concept. The result of this study shows that Joker gets his existentialism through any processes, namely: Joker's observation, Joker's questions, and Joker's denial to his creator. Joker depends on his own ability and believes it as the basis of his existentialism. Finally, Joker gets out from the dream world. It means Frode's imagination, and appears to the real world. It means, Joker crosses space and time, from the card in the magic island becomes the real dwarf who meets Hans Thomas in this world. It means the real world.

**Key Words:** *Joker, Existentialism, Resistance*

**AN EXISTENTIALISM ANALYSIS, THE JOKER'S RESISTANCE IN  
*THE SOLITAIRE MYSTERY* BY JOSTEIN GAARDER'S NOVEL**

Oleh: Mu'ammam Hasan

**ABSTRAK**

Novel *The Solitaire Mystery* menceritakan tentang sebuah pemberontakan yang dilakukan oleh Joker terhadap Frode, hal tersebut dilatar belakangi balas dendam Joker guna mendapatkan kembali kebebasannya. Ada sebuah hal yang menarik untuk dibahas yaitu tentang eksistensi. Didalam pemberontakannya, Joker menunjukkan eksistensi melalui aktivitasnya. Akhir dari pemberontakan Joker yaitu dengan kematian Frode. Yakni Joker membunuh penciptanya. Disini, penulis menganalisa dua permasalahan utama dalam pemberontakan yang dilakukan oleh Joker. Yakni alasan pemberontakan Joker dan proses pemberontakan Joker. Pemberontakan Joker terjadi karena Joker telah menyadari eksistensinya. Kemudian Joker mencoba untuk mengungkap tentang jati dirinya dan penciptanya. Akhirnya, Joker mengetahui bahwa Frode adalah penciptanya. Proses pemberontakan Joker terjadi di jamuan Joker dimana Frode dan semua kartu berkumpul untuk merayakan hari Joker. Disana, Joker mengumumkan eksistensinya kepada semua kartu. Akhirnya, Joker berhasil mempengaruhi semua kartu untuk membunuh Frode. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan teori Sartre, penulis menganalisa eksistensi Joker berdasarkan pandangan dari Jean Paul Sarte tentang para eksisteisalis atheis yang menunjukkan bahwa mereka tidak percaya akan adanya Tuhan dan mereka juga menganggap bahwa manusia hidup didunia ini dengan sendirinya tanpa ada campur tangan Tuhan. Dari hasil anlisa, dapat disimplkan bahwa Joker mendapatkan eksistensinya melalui beberapa proses yaitu: pengamatan Joker, pertanyaan-pertanyaan Joker, dan sangkalan Joker terhadap penciptanya. Joker bergantung pada kemampuan dirinya sendiri dan meyakinkannya sebagai dasar dari eksistensinya. Sehingga dia keluar dari dunia impian. Yakni imajinasinya Frode, dan muncul ke dunia nyata. Maksudnya, Joker telah melewati ruang dan waktu, yang dahulunya imajinasi kini menjadi nyata, atau yang dahulunya cuma sebuah kartu kini menjadi seorang kerdil yang muncul di dunianya Hans Thomas yaitu dunia nyata.

**Kata Kunci:** *Joker, Eksistensi, Pemberontakan*

**MOTTO**

NOTHING IS BETTER THAN A PRAYER  
THAT THIS THESIS IS FINISHED



## DEDICATION

This Thesis Is Dedicated To My Beloved Parents

(Alm) Abdullah Lazib

And

Tayumi

And My Beloved Sisters

Ani Zahrohtul Ummah

And

Hanifah Atmi Nurmala



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In addition, the writer is fully aware of limitation of this thesis, but the writer just hopes that it can little be useful for everyone who is always thirsty for knowledge.

Yogyakarta, 09 October 2014

The Writer,



**Mu'ammal Hasan**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

Based on the history, existentialism was published in nineteenth century by Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) and Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). In twentieth century, existentialism becomes important philosophy. Figures like Karl.Jaspers, Martin Heidegger, Jean Paul Sartre, Gabriel Marcel, and Marleau Ponty become popular (Surajiyo 2005: 161). Existentialism focuses on concrete experience, but the experience has various meanings. Heidegger concerns about death that was somber. Marcel concerns about religious experience. Jasper concerns about various experiences of life. They are death, infliction, struggle, and piety (2005: 161-162).

Existentialism is a philosophy's precept that considers phenomena based on its existence. It means human exists in the world (Achmadi 2011: 127-128). Existentialism also affirms human individuality. It conceives human to do and to renew himself (Roswanto 2009: 117-118). Human is not only to exist but to understand his existence. It focuses in a human activity because the human's activity is human's existence (Dagun 1990: 19-20). So, existentialism affirms human's activity.

Human's activity cannot be separated from literature. David Charter states the terminology of literature on his book *Literary Theory* (2006: 17). Literature is what a given society at a given time considers it to be. It is like music, drama, and

art. Wellek and Warren say that literature presents the life. It is largely made up of social reality although literature is also considered as a social phenomenon (1995: 109). Whereas a literary work is a creative activity of a work of art. Literature is everything that is written and printed. In addition, the literature is also an imaginative work that is deemed a broader understanding of the work of fiction (1995: 3-4).

Prose is one of literary genres. It also called fiction or narrative text. The term of fiction is often called imaginative story (Nurgiyantoro 2010: 2). In general, fiction is an author imagination. It is affected by many factors like culture, spiritual experience, philosophy, religion, education, background of author, and others. According to Abrams on his book *Glossary of Literary Terms* (1971: 59) states that fiction is applied primarily to prose narratives. It likes novel and short story. Prose is sometimes used simply as synonym for the novel.

Novel and short story are kinds of literary work and also called fiction. Moreover, novel is always considered as synonym for fiction (Nurgiyantoro 2010: 9). Sumarjo on Santosa and Wahyunigtyas book *Pengantar Apresiasi Prosa* (2010: 47) states that novel is society product. It is formed by the member of society based on emotional encouragement or rational encouragement in society. Moreover, Nurgiyantoro Burhan on his book *Pengantar Pemahaman Dunia Anak* (2010: 18-19) divides novel in two kinds, namely popular novel and serious novel. Popular novel is a novel that popular in its period while serious novel is exposed and revealed until the core of natural living that universal.

Jostein Gaarder is a popular novelist that was born in Oslo on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1952. In writing books, Gaarder usually uses a child's perspective, writes stories within stories, and uses philosophy's thought. Gaarder writes some novels like *Sophie's World*, *The Solitaire Mystery*, *The Orange Girl*, *Bibbi Bokken's magic library*, *The Yellow Dwarves* (<http://www.famousauthors.org/>). *The Solitaire Mystery* is one of the best novels from Jostein Gaarder. The original novel is published in Norwegian under the title *Kabalmysteriet*. The novel is translated into English language by Sarah Jane Hails. It is illustrated by Hilda Kramer. It is published in Great Britain in 1996 by Phoenix House. The Electronic Book was published in 2010 by Orion Books (Gaarder 2010: 6-7).

*The Solitaire Mystery* is interesting novel because the story is written with unique way by the author. It is writing story within story. It means the novel has two difference stories, namely the real story and the story of sticky bun-book. In the end of novel, the two stories are relating one another. The novel also contains philosophy's thoughts like Plato, Soren Kierkegaard, and Friedrich Nietzsche. Plato's Idealism happens in the process of creating the dwarfs by Frode. Kierkegaard's existentialism tells about teodise. It happens in the magic island where the dwarfs and their creator cannot live together. Neitzsche's existentialism happens in the Joker's resistance. It tells about God's death which analogous with Frode's death.

*The Solitaire Mystery* teaches people concerning about philosophy. It is significant because philosophy becomes the best way for people to get their existence and freedom. Philosophy usually comes from people's admiration to

something. Then the people ask themselves exhaustively. Finally, the people try to think their existence and freedom as individual. In *The Solitaire Mystery*, the Joker's act is a process that shows a truth finding. It means the truth of the Joker's creator. The Joker's act above can conceive people to do something. It means to discover and develop something on their activity.

In *The Solitaire Mystery* novel, Joker is more interesting character to be analyzed than other characters. In the magic island, Joker is different to other dwarfs. He does not belong to four families like Heart, Diamond, Club, and Spade. It happens because Joker is not given a character and characterization by Frode In the process of creating the dwarfs. It means the dwarfs have the character and characterization except Joker. Joker realizes his existentialism through his consciousness that he is different. With his existentialism, Joker also crosses time and space. He gets out from sticky bun book then comes in Hans Thomas' life. So, Joker turns into a human but he is different to common human like Hans Thomas, Frode, Albert, Dad, Ludwig, Baker Hans, and others. Joker's body is like a dwarf, he cannot be old and his face is like a child. Joker is also immortal. It means he cannot die. That all makes Joker differs to common human.

In this graduating paper, the writer is interested to analyze the Joker's resistance to Frode. In this situation, Joker is Frode's creation who tries to kill Frode. The writer also wants to find out the reason why Joker does the resistance. Joker shows his resistance through his activity. It can be analyzed with existentialism theory. The writer will analyze the Joker's resistance by using existentialism theory from Jean Paul Sartre.



## 1.2. Problem Statements

This paper aims to analyze the existentialism of Joker's character, in terms of tokens and activities. This paper will concern about:

1. Why does the Joker's resistance happen?
2. How does the Joker's resistance happen?

## 1.3. Objectives of Study

Based on the problem statements of the paper, here are the objectives in this research:

1. To explain the reason why the Joker's resistance to Frode happens in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel.
2. To explain the process of the Joker's resistance to Frode in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel.

## 1.4. Significances of Study

Practically, this research is to analyze the Joker's resistance to Frode in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel. Theoretically, this research is to add knowledge, reference, and understanding the meaning of existentialism theory in literary work especially in the novel. Pragmatically, this research is to analyze the Joker's struggle for his existence in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel.

## 1.5. Literary Review

The following researches are similar to what the writer conducts, that is about existentialism. What makes this research different is that the writer will analyze the different object. The object is *The Solitaire Mystery* Novel by Jostein

Gaarder. The writer analyzes Joker's existentialism by using Jean Paul Sartre's book entitled "Existentialism and Humanism". Here, the writer finds two literary reviews.

The first literary review is written by Umar Wirahadi from State Islamic University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang in 2008 entitled "The Existentialism Studies on Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe's Freedom of Life". The research is conducted upon Daniel Defoe classic literary work Robinson Crusoe. This study focuses its analysis upon two significant problems, which lead to the objectives, those are finding the way of Robinson Crusoe to defend his existence and find out the relationship between Existentialism and freedom of choice. The result of the analysis shows that the way of Robinson Crusoe to defend his existence is very related to the existentialism aspect. All of his effort is to realize his own life based on his own choice freely. It can be seen as a complete existence. Moreover, in his struggle to survive his life, he also find himself in alienation or estrangement, anxiety, nothingness feeling, and getting his freedom, all of these also mean to get his own existence.

The second literary review is written by Wulan Kusumawardani from State University of Semarang in 2012 entitled "Pokok-Pokok Pemikiran Eksistensialisme, Jean Paul Sartre Yang Termanifestasikan Pada Tokoh Meursault Dalam Roman *L'etranger* Karya Albert Camus". It is translated in English language "The Principal Thoughts of Existentialism, Jean Paul Sartre's Thought Is Manifested to Meursault Character in Romance *L'etranger* by Albert Camus". The writer focuses in analyzing the manifestation of existencialisms' thought by

Sartre in Meursault character that includes 1) Meursault's freedom based on Sartre concept, 2) Nothingness concept that happens in Meursault, 3) Human relation that is materialized through emotion, hate, love, and sexuality. The result of the analysis shows that the Meursault activity is dominated by his basic thought. It is consciousness.

### **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

The word "existentialism" comes from Latin's word *existere*, *ex* means out and *sistere* means making standing up. It means something that shows the existence, the actuality, and the experience (Dagun 1990: 19). According to Sartre on his book entitled "*Existentialism and Humanism*" states existentialism is a doctrine that makes human life possible and also affirms that every truth and every action imply an environment and a human subjectivity (Sartre 2007: 18). On his book, Sartre also explains about Subjectivity. Subjectivity means a freedom of individual subject to choose what he will be (Sartre 2007: 23). Moreover, Sartre also divides existentialism into two kinds. They are Christian existentialists and atheist existentialists (Sartre 2007: 20).

The Christians' existentialists believe that production precedes essence. They describe the production with a manufactured object. It is like a book or paper knife. They consider that the book or paper knife is produced by a craftsman who has the concept of the object. It means the concept of production precedes the essence of the object like a book or paper knife. They have a reason that people cannot suppose that a man would produce a paper knife without knowing what purpose it would serve. Those all like in the human creation. God produces

man following certain techniques and a conception. God know exactly what he is creating. Just as the craftsman, following a definition and a technique produces a paper knife (Sartre 2007: 20-21).

While the atheists' existentialists believe that existence precedes essence. They describe if God does not exist, there is a being in whom existence precede essence. It means a being that exists before he can be definite by any concept of it. That being is a man. Man first exists. He materializes in the world. He encounters himself. He only afterward defines himself. If man as existentialists conceive of him cannot be defined. It is because to begin with he is nothing. He will not be anything until later. Then he will be what he makes of himself. Thus, there is no human nature because there is God who have concept of it (Sartre 2007: 22-23).

In *The Solitaire Mystery* novel, Joker shows his existentialism through his activity. There, Joker kills Frode because he refuses himself as Frode's creation. The Joker's act above is related to atheist existentialist's theory that refuses God existence. So, the writer chooses atheist existentialist's theory to analyze the Joker's resistance.

## **1.7. Method of Research**

### **1.7.1. Type of Research**

Based on the type of analyzing data, this study applies the qualitative research in which the data is analyzed by explaining descriptively. Bodgan and Biklen (1982) state qualitative research is characterized by description in forms of words or sentences. Qualitative research can be done through library and field research. This study applies library research. This method is applied by reading

and studying some books concerned about the topic of the problems. Nawawi states that library research is a research activity done by collecting the data from some sources either from library or other places (2005:31). The sources used are not limited only by the books, but magazines and newspapers are allowed.

### **1.7.2. Data Resources**

The main data is the existentialism practice of the Joker's character in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel. In addition, the writer also uses electronic books to support the research about existentialism theory.

### **1.7.3. Data Collecting Technique**

The technique of collecting data in this research is documentation technique. Documentation method is a method that searches data about things or variables like notes, transcriptions, books, newspapers, magazines, agendas, etc (Arikunto 2006:31). The method is used by reading *The Solitaire Mystery* novel and then analyzing the novel to find the existentialism of Joker's character in the novel. After analyzing the writer lists the Joker's existentialism aspects in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel.

### **1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique**

This research uses descriptive analysis. It means that all of the primary data are analyzed and interpreted descriptively by using existentialism theory to get the conclusion about Joker's resistance in *The Solitaire Mystery novel*. The writer will analyze the Joker's existentialism by applying Sartre's theory. Sartre divides existentialism into two groups. They are Christians' existentialists and

atheists' existentialists. First, Christians' existentialists believe that production precedes essence. Second, atheists' existentialists believe that existence precedes essence. They also do not believe human nature.

### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction that includes background of study, problem statements, objectives of study, significances of study, literature reviews, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. Chapter II elaborates *The Solitaire Mystery* novel. Chapter III explains the reason and the process of the Joker's resistance. Chapter IV is the conclusion of this research.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

Joker's resistance is like revenge. It means the Joker's revenge to his creator. It happens because Joker realizes that he is different to the fifty two dwarfs. Joker also finds a truth that he does not have family like Diamond, Heart, Club, and Spade. So, Joker feels that he does not like other dwarfs who have family, work, and characterization. Joker gets his existentialism through any process like observation, questions, and action. Through his existentialism, Joker also finds many truths like the truth that he exist, the truth that he is Frode's creation, the truth that Frode is creator while all the dwarfs are his creations.

To prove his existentialism, Joker kills Frode in front of all the dwarfs. Joker does his resistance because he feels that Frode arrogated his existence and freedom. Joker gets the feeling above, because he lives together with Frode in one place. It means in the magic island. In this situation, Joker realizes that he cannot live together with his creator because Joker feels that his existence and freedom are threatened if he often meets Frode in the magic island. So, Joker kills Frode to regain his pride. It means an existence and a freedom.

Joker's existentialism can be applied in some existentialism of philosophies' concepts like Jean Paul Sartre, Soren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Karl Jaspers, and Martin Heidegger. Sartre's concept state that human cannot depend on anything except himself. It also happens in Joker's character

where finds his existentialism by himself. Kierkegaard's concept states that God and his creations cannot live together in one place. It happens between Frode, Joker, and Fifty Two dwarfs. Nietzsche's concept states that God was dead and we have murdered him. It happens in the Joker's resistance where Joker kills his creator. Jaspers' concept states that human must against anxiousness and nothingness. It happens in Joker's character where proves his existentialism with kills Frode. Heidegger's concept states that human must think and get absolute's existentialism. It also happens in Joker's character where kills Frode and get out from sticky bun-book to live in real world. In this case, the writer relates his analysis with theory from atheist's existentialists that do not believe in God existence. The theory appropriates with Joker who refuses his creator. Moreover, He kills his creator on his resistance. The purpose of Joker's resistance is regaining the existence and the freedom.

## **4.2. Suggestion**

### **4.2.1. Suggestion for the Future Writers**

This graduating paper focus on analyze the existentialism that happen in the Joker's character in *The Solitaire Mystery* novel, and the paper use existentialism theory from Jean Paul Sartre's book entitled *Existentialism and Humanism*. The writer suggests for the future writers use this study as a cooperative literary study on *The Solitaire Mystery* novel. Future writers may use same object to analyze from different point of view. The writer suggests for the future writers may analyze. For example, analyze the effect of existentialism, or



analyze the other characters besides Joker character in the novel. So the future writers can use the same object but in different theme.

#### **4.2.2. Suggestion for the Reader**

Existentialism is a way that purposes to be admitted as individually in society. Joker realizes his existentialism through the classic philosophy's questions. It is like who am I? Where I come from? When Joker finds the answers of the question above, he knows what he must to do. The answers are to regain his existence and freedom. The writer suggests for the reader to read the solitaire mystery novel by Jostien Gaarder. The novel is interesting and easy to read because the author writes the story within story. It means the novel has two stories that related each others. The author also teaches philosophy through the novel, he uses many philosophy's thoughts like Soren Kierkegaard's thought, Friedrich Nietzsche's thought, and Plato's thought.

#### **4.3. Islamic Point of View**

Joker shows his existentialism in his resistance not only to regain his existence but to regain his freedom. Talking about freedom, Roswanto states that both of theist existentialists and atheist existentialists have difference in understanding God existence. It means, theist existentialists accept God existence and they consider God existence is not to be a barricade for human's freedom. While, atheist existentialists refuse God existence and they consider God becomes a barricade for human's freedom (2009: 52-53).

In Quran, freedom is explained in surah Al-Kahf verse twenty nine. It explains that human have a freedom to choose. It means believe in God or not.

وَقُلِ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ ۖ فَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُؤْمِنْ وَمَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيُكْفُرْ ۗ إِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا  
لِلظَّالِمِينَ نَارًا أَحَاطَ بِهَا ۖ لَهُمْ سُرَادِقُهَا ۗ وَإِنْ يَسْتَعِيثُوا يُغَاثُوا بِمَاءٍ كَالْمُهْلِ  
يَشْوِي الْوُجُوهُ ۗ بِئْسَ الشَّرَابُ وَسَاءَتْ مُرْتَفَقًا ﴿١٨﴾

And say, "The truth is from your Lord, so whoever wills - let him believe; and whoever wills - let him disbelieve." Indeed, We have prepared for the wrongdoers a fire whose walls will surround them. And if they call for relief, they will be relieved with water like murky oil, which scalds [their] faces. Wretched is the drink, and evil is the resting place (<http://quran.com/18>).

In Al-Isra' verse seven also states a freedom. It states that human have a freedom to choose doing a good or evil for their self.

إِنْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ ۖ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا ۗ فَإِذَا جَاءَ وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ  
لِيَسْتَوْأُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبَرُوا  
مَا عَلَوْا تَتَبِيرًا ﴿٧﴾

[And said], "If you do good, you do good for yourselves; and if you do evil, [you do it] to yourselves." Then when the final promise came, [We sent your enemies] to sadden your faces and to enter the temple in Jerusalem, as they entered it the first time, and to destroy what they had taken over with [total] destruction (<http://quran.com/17>).

The writer concludes that human is free to choose his own way. It means their way of life. God Allah SWT gives human Quran and Sunnah as the direction to get happiness life in the world and hereafter.



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## APENDIX I

### CURRICULUM VITAE

#### A. IDENTITY

Name : Mu'ammam Hasan

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Date of Birth : 06 May 1990

Sex : Male

Marital Status : Single

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#### B. FORMAL EDUCATION

1998-2004: Islamic Elementary School Nidzhomiyah Kabuh.

2004-2006: Islamic Junior High School Darussalam Ngesong Sengon Jombang.

2006-2009: State Islamic Senior High School Tambakberas Jombang.

2009-2014: State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

APENDIX II

