

**DECISION MAKING IN PAULO COELHO'S  
"THE ALCHEMIST"**

**A THESIS**



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**2008**

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## ABSTRACT

The Alchemist is a novel written by Paulo Coelho which tells about a struggle of a young Spanish boy named Santiago. The novel portrays the decision making process done by Santiago to overcome his dilemmas. The issue that is discussed in this study is Santiago's experiences in dealing with his dilemmas and the process of decision making. The process itself eventually results in giving him a kind of satisfaction and signifies the emergence of self-existentialism as well. Moreover, Santiago's decision making process is explained through the mechanism of existentialism, particularly Søren Kierkegaard's theory.

In analyzing the problem, the writer uses the library research and qualitative method. The qualitative method is used by making the descriptive analysis and explanation through the events and actions in the story related to the identification process of making decisions done by Santiago in Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist. The study finds that when Santiago does his own decision making he is able to overcome his dilemmas but, on the other hands, it also leads him to experience dread. Moreover, Santiago's decision making is based on his subjectivity. It puts him on a situation in which he tends to ignore the crowd's opinions but, however, still considers opinions from the community. Santiago's subjectivity still plays an important role although he still listens to the community's opinion because Santiago keeps making his own consideration in the process of making decision.

Key words: decision making, dilemma, subjectivity, the crowd, the community.