

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 is about the introduction of the research. It consist the Background of the study, problem Statement, Objectives of Study, Benefit of the study, and Paper Organization.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the expression of anything poured into writing. Literature is an entirely aesthetic or creative textual expression, claims Mario Klarer (2004). The term "literature" may not apply to all written works. According to Mario Klarer (2004), the words "aesthetic" or "artistic" are used to set literary works apart from texts that are used on a regular basis, such as phone books, newspapers, legal documents, and scholarly literature. Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) as cited from Hans Bertens (2001) views literature, in addition to its aesthetic and appealing aspects, also has lessons for us to learn that were known in antiquity and have been repeated time and time again throughout history. David Carter (2006) stated literature includes all genres, such as history and philosophy. He added that literature is whatever a particular civilization at a certain period perceives it to be. To learn about the history, civilization, philosophy, ideas, and culture of that era, it implies that literary works will reveal to us a particular society in a certain moment. Carter also points out that literature, in all of its forms, discusses human life, including its nature and problems as well as its method of existence, modes of coexistence, and systems of thought. From the definitions above can be conclude that besides its aesthetic aspect, literature depicts particular society in a certain moment to be learned from time to time.

In textual studies, Mario Klarer separated literature into four main genres: fiction, poetry, theater, and film. Novels are a type of fiction writing. A novel, according to Abrams (1981), is a wide range of texts that share solely the characteristic of being lengthy works of fiction published in prose. It has a wider range of characters, a more

complicated plot, a more fully realized atmosphere, and a more thorough examination of character and motivation.

Numerous novels have been written in several languages. Novels are frequently translated into different languages in order to reach a wider audience because of the limitations of language that people can understand. Translation, according to Hatim and Munday (2004:6), is the process of converting a written text from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). On the other side, translation is a process of replicating the nearest natural equivalent meaning of the receptor language from a source language, according to Nida and Taber (1982: 12). These definitions reveal that a translated novel is one in which the language has been moved from the source language to the target language with an equivalent meaning.

No longer Human is a novel written by a Japanese writer who is known as the best fiction writer in Japan in the 21st century named Osamu Dazai. Osamu Dazai was born on June 19, 1909 in Kanagi, Japan with the name Shuji Tsushima from the family of the Tsushima clan which was bloody art and full of luxury. He has shown his writing talent since his youth by participating in writing poetry in literary magazines. In his work in the literary world, Shuji makes writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa his role model. Ryunosuke Akutagawa's death by suicide then affects Shuji Tsushima's life. Shuji was in such deep pain that he was trapped in alcohol and prostitution which led to an attempted suicide in 1929 while he was still studying at university. In 1948, he published an autobiographical novel entitled "No Longer Human" before taking his own life.

Due to its popularity, "No Longer Human" is translated in many other languages including English. The English version of novel "No Longer Human" is translated by Donald Lawrence Keene. Donald Lawrence Keene is an intellect, historian, writer, translator of Japanese literature, and also a *Shincho Professor Emeritus of Japanese*

Literature in Columbia University. He had translated Japanese books in English including a novel “No Longer Human”.

“No Longer Human” is a novel that tell story about Oba Yozo, a man that has a gloomy character who likes to pretend to entertain another people but then trapped into alcohol and prostitution. The novel written in the first person point of view. The story begins with a note from the main character, Oba Yozo, which he sends to a bar along with three pictures of himself which a customer reads on the recommendation of the barkeeper. The first photo is when Yozo was a child, where he wasn't smiling and had an inexplicable expression. The second photo is of Oba Yozo during his school days, where he looks handsome but still shows an inhuman smile. The third photo shows his unsmiling face and looks much older than his age. Yozo's note consists of three parts, each of which tells the phase of his life according to the three photos. The first record contains Yozo's childhood, where he felt isolated even though he was with his own family. The second record contains Yozo's school days. The third note contains two parts. The first part tells of Yozo's condition after the incident in Kamakura. The third record of the second part contains the destruction of Yozo's life.

In this novel, the author focuses on the life story of the main character, Oba Yozo, which is very gloomy and dark. Oba Yozo has no motivation in his life and goes with the flow of life. The main character, Oba Yozo, failed to find the meaning of his existence. The absence of meaning in the main character's life reflects a nihilistic view of life. Nihilism, in the researcher's opinion, is a way of looking at life that presumes there are no values and that life has no purpose. According to nihilism, reality is arbitrary, irrational, pointless, valuable, and meaningless. The illusions, myths, and other social and cultural systems that have previously given us safety, hope, and meaning are destroyed by nihilism. Nihilism, according to Nietzsche (1887), is defined as suffer, insecurity, and unwarranted humiliation brought on by a person's own perception that they have done something wrong. According to Nietzsche, nihilism was first encountered by those who had known for a long time that there was nothing in the

universe that had any objective worth, meaning, or truth that they sought or believed. Nihilists can be divided into two groups: those who possess the willpower to do so and those who lack it. The former are referred to as "active nihilists," whilst the latter are referred to as "passive nihilists." When faced with nihilism, a person who practices passive nihilism interprets it as a sign that the hunt for meaning has come to an end. In other words, people of this kind are powerless to make anything of their life. Additionally, the active nihilist will invent a new meaning that suits them.

The reason why the researcher analyzes this novel is because this novel is rarely studied by other researchers, thus avoiding plagiarism. Furthermore, the novel "No Longer Human" has an interesting story about human life. Finally, the researcher wants to know more about the values of nihilism and its destructive effect on the main character.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher decided to examine the main character in the novel *No Longer Human* using the nihilism theory by Friedrich Nietzsche and raised the theme of the bad influence of nihilism on the main character's life. Due to the relation to the main character's struggle of finding the meaning of existence, this research will use existentialism perspective. Furthermore, this research is entitled **"NIHILISM AND ITS DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON OBA YOZO IN *NO LONGER HUMAN* BY OSAMU DAZAI."**

1.2 Research Questions

1. How is the characterization of Oba Yozo in the novel "*No Longer Human*"?
2. How is the idea of nihilism reflected in on Oba Yozo in the novel "*No Longer Human*"?
3. What is the destructive effect of nihilism in Oba Yozo's life in the novel "*No Longer Human*"?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the characterization of Oba Yozo in the novel "*No Longer Human*"
2. To reveal the idea of nihilism as reflected on Oba Yozo in the novel "*No Longer Human*"
3. To find the destructive effect of nihilism in Oba Yozo's life in the novel "*No Longer Human*"

1.4 Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to give contribution to the body knowledge, especially literary study on the novel "*No Longer Human*" and to provide the information related to the novel "*No Longer Human*" and nihilism theory.

2. Practical Benefit

This research is expected to provide and enrich the references in analyzing novel "*No Longer Human*" especially for student of English Education. The researcher also expect the reader to continue another research about novel "*No Longer Human*".

1.5 Research Paper Organization

Research paper organization has an aim to make the research become easier to understand. The research paper organization of "**NIHILIST LIFE OF OBA YOZO AND ITS DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT IN THE NOVEL *NO LONGER HUMAN* (1948) BY OSAMU DAZAI (AN EXISTENTIAL PERSPECTIVE)**" as follows:

Chapter 1 is Introduction. This chapter contains background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefit of the study and research paper organization.

Chapter 2 is Literature Review. This chapter concerns in underlying theory and previous study. The underlying theory contains the theory about existentialism, nihilism, the forms of nihilism, and self-destructive behavior.

Chapter 3 is Methodology. This chapter contains the research method such as the types of research, the object of research, the data and data source, the technique of collecting data, the technique of analyzing data, and the data validity.

Chapter 4 is Finding and Discussion. This chapter presents the finding from the data sources and explain the data in the discussion section.

Chapter 5 is Conclusion. This chapter contains the conclusion of the research, suggestion for further researcher, and the pedagogical implication.