

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*Sing Me to Sleep* is a teenager novel that was published in 2010. This novel was released by Angela Morrison after the *Taken by Storm* saga. Morrison created a romance nuance in every piece of the story. She does not only tell about love story in her novel but also about the internal conflict of a girl to decide a meaningful choice. She also takes some art aspects in her story, they are music and singing. This novel consists of 33 chapters and 320 pages.

Angela Morrison is the author of novel who grows up in Eastern Washington. She graduates from Brigham Young University. Her works that have been published are amazing. They are *Slipped*, *Taken by Storm*, *Unbroken Connection*, *Cayman Summer*, and *Sing Me to Sleep*. All of her works tell about love story. In addition to writing novels, Morrison is interested in writing poetry and lyrics. She inserts some lyrics to beautify the sequences of the story in her *Sing Me to Sleep* novel. She is also a singer in the choir at church. After more than a decade abroad in Canada, Switzerland and Singapore, she and her family returned to Arizona's Sonoran Desert happily. In making her work, there are important aspects that have inspired her. They are her families and books that she read. The books are *The Book*

*Thief* by Marcus Zusak, *The Actor and the Housewife* by Shannon Hale and all things by Jane Austen.

This novel tells about Beth Evans, a seventeen years old girl who was born red and pimply with a purple blotch on her forehead. She studies in second class at Port High School, Michigan. Her friends at school always disturb and sneer at her. They call her *The Beast*. Scott is her friend since they were in kindergarten. He always helps her. He accepts Beth just the way she was. He likes all about Beth although her face is very ugly. He loves Beth very much but Beth does not whenever he says. She thinks that she is not proper to him. Scott has to get a beautiful girl and smart like him, not her. She merely would embarrass him.

Beth joins a choir group *Bliss Youth Singers* of Ann Arbor choir, the choir she lives for, the choir that makes her runs away from who she is. Beth's voice is alto. Moreover she can also sing soprano's voice. She could sing with falsetto voice. Meadow, Sarah, and Leah are her friends in *Bliss*. Terri—the director of *Bliss*, decided to follow the *Choral Olympics* in Lausanne, Switzerland to their choir, the Olympiad of choirs that is followed by many countries. Meadow, the soloist in *Bliss* could not sing perfectly in her part. She has problem in falsetto voice and also nervous in the stage. Beth offers herself to be a soloist. She can do it certainly. It is true. Beth sings wonderfully. She has a beautiful voice.

Seeing the condition of Beth, her friends include Meadow and her mother remake her looking. Finally, Beth becomes a beautiful girl. She looks

amazing. Her face is flawless without pimples. She is very beautiful like Princess Beauty. Derek is a man whom Beth knows in Switzerland. He is a soloist in *Amabile Boys' Choir (ABC)*, the best men choir in the world. They fall in love. They are together for several days. In their togetherness, Beth often sees Derek drinking a pill. Beth does not believe about his addiction of drugs like Blake—Derek's friend in *ABC*—said. In the other side, Derek's face is very pale like a drug addict.

Beth tells about Scott to Derek. Derek knows that Scott loves her very much. Derek asks Beth to leave him and go to Scott. However, Beth does not do that. Then, Derek offers a planning to Beth. He wants Beth to join *Amabile Youth Singers (AYS)*, the best Women choir in the world. The director of *AYS* wants Beth to join with them. It makes Beth confused. It is impossible for her to leave *Bliss* choir. They can be successful because of that Olympiad. Besides that she also wants to sing together with Derek in *Amabile* choir. Nevertheless, she also could not join both of them. She has to choose one of them.

Derek often leaves and hides from Beth. He fades away for one, two, three, even several weeks and Beth does not know where he is. Finally, Beth's question is answered. Beth watches Derek and his choir singing in the playing prime a movie in Toronto on television. He looks so pale and approximately bluish. Suddenly, Derek falls down and collapsed. He is carried to the hospital. Beth goes to the hospital immediately. She finds

Derek's room. He's there, lying in a hospital bed, with a mask strapped on his face. There's a bag of clear liquid hanging on a pole.

Derek suffers *CF, Cystic Fibrosis*. It causes the slime in his body thickens and adheres. It is why he coughs. This *CF* plugs his pancreas and defaces his liver. After school, Beth accompanies him at hospital. They are singing together in Derek's room. Derek created a "Beth's Song" and asked Beth to sing it. "*Sing me to sleep Beth.*"

Beth holds Derek's hands while singing a song. In the morning, Beth wakes up. Still holds Derek's hands, but they are no longer warm. Derek is dead. Several weeks later, *Amabile* is holding a memorial *CF* benefit for Derek. They ask Beth to sing in the concert. Derek's friends are singing one after another. Beth sings "Beth's Song." Scott is there. He looks at her. He knows that Beth is very sad. After Beth has finished her song, she goes to Scott. He holds her arms and accompanies her to go home. She cries in Scott's arms. Scott still loves her until that time. He hugs Beth and will never leave her.

This novel has a few awards. It has not been developed into the movie yet. But the music of 'Beth's Song' and 'Take me Home' have already released and can be heard by the listeners. They are available in iTunes. This music is made by a composer Harriet Bushman from London, England. This novel was inaugurated to be a Goodreads Choice Nominee for Young Adult Fiction USA in 2010. Besides that, this novel won Young Adult Fiction in the USA Best Books 2011 Awards.

The public responses to this novel are so thrive. Public's responses come from customers on the original as well as the translation novel. First response is on July 26, 2010 a review by Katie Dahlberg in Roseville, Michigan. She really likes the major male characters, Derek and Scott. According to her, they have each way to give their caring to a person they love, Beth. Derek is sweet and romantic but he is always controlling what Beth should do. Scott is protective and supportive. He gives freedom to Beth to do something that is good for her but not freedom to choose a boyfriend. Beth must love Scott. (<http://www.amazon.com/review/>).

Another response comes from a reviewer whose name is "Gaby", Maria Guajardo in Venezuela on May 28, 2011. She likes all characters because they can sing perfectly. Beth, Derek, Scott and other characters have a great voice, and participate in choirs. This novel is the first book that the story tells about singing in the choir that she has read. She also likes that the author include some lyrics in the story. It helps her to understand how the author feels. (<http://www.amazon.com/review/>).

There are some aspects that make this novel fascinating to analyze by the writer.

Firstly, this novel tells about love story that is addressed to young adults or teenagers. So, the story is full of romance and so dramatic. On the other hand, this story probably can happen in the real world. Therefore the readers can understand the plot of this novel easily.

Secondly, Angela Morrison tries to make her novel wonderful and easy to understand to the readers. She beautifies her story with her lyrics. Certainly, she wants her novel to be attractive and enjoyable to the readers. She describes each character clearly such as how their physique traits, their appearance, their behavior, their talent, and all about each character. She also describes every situation in the story so detail and simply. So, the readers can not feel confused and bored to read this novel.

Thirdly, this novel not only tells about love story but also about singing in the choir. The characters in this novel have a great voice. Actually, the writer likes music and singing so much and she also joins the choir in her university like the story in this novel. Because of that, she is interested in reading this novel and analyzing it.

The last aspect is the message that is delivered by the author to the readers. Angela Morrison conveys that a choice must be thought carefully to get the best result. A choice is established at the beginning of our life. Then, a good choice is the beginning of our success. The writer wants to show how vital making a meaningful choice in human's life is.

Based on the aspects above the writer will observe and analyze *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010) by using an existentialist criticism theory by Jean Paul Sartre. Thus the writer will conduct a research entitled **Choices in Life Reflected in Angela Morrison's *Sing Me to Sleep* Novel (2010): An Existentialist Criticism.**

## **B. Literary Review**

Because of inadequacy for the writer, this research has no previous study. So far the writer has not found the previous study about *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010). She has tried to search in some library via internet such as in UNS, UI, UMY, even in UMS itself. She also has tried to search journal and article online but her endeavor has no good result.

## **C. Problem Statement**

Recognizing that the problem is the major part of this research, the writer recommends the problem, “How is making meaningful choices in life reflected in Angela Morrison’s *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010)?”

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research the writer will focus on Beth’s choices in life as the major character in Angela Morrison’s *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010) based on an existentialist criticism.

## **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the writer has the following objectives:

1. To analyze *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010) based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the major character’s choices in life in *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010) based on an existentialist criticism.

## **F. Benefits of the Study**

This research is estimated to give the following benefits:

### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

- a. This research can be used as the reference for other literary researchers especially for those who want to analyze this novel.
- b. This research can give an involvement to English literary study.

### **2. Practical Benefits**

This research can give information, better understanding and additional knowledge to the literary research especially dealing with the novel.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this research, the researcher applies a descriptive qualitative research. It is library research while the data sources are using literary data. It aims to analyze Beth's choices in life as the major character in Angela Morrison's *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010) by using existentialist criticism.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *Sing Me to Sleep* novel (2010) created by Angela Morrison published by Razorbill in 2010.

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

There are two types of the data, namely primary and secondary data.

a. Primary Data

The primary data source is taken from the novel “*Sing Me to Sleep*” novel (2010) created by Angela Morrison.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are books and virtual references as documentation.

**4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The techniques of data collections are library research and note taking, with the following steps:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of essential parts in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Determining the characters that will be analysis.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- e. Collecting some supporting data from other references that are related to the topic.

**5. Technique of the Analysis Data**

The technique of data analysis in this research is descriptive analysis. The analysis uses word as the data research, and the data reports will contain citation or documentation. It concerns with structural elements of the novel and an existentialist criticism.

## H. Paper Organization

The writer is going to organize this research in order to make it easier to understand. She organizes the research paper organization of Choices in Life Reflected in Angela Morrison's *Sing Me to Sleep* Novel (2010): An Existentialist Criticism.

This research is divided into five chapters: Chapter I is introduction of research. In this chapter the writer divides it into eight items, they are: background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of notion of existentialism, Sartre's theory of existentialism, and structural elements of novel. Chapter III is structural analysis. This chapter is divided into two sections, they are structural elements of novel such as; character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme, and style and also discussion. Chapter IV is existentialism analysis. It represents being, consciousness, transcendence of ego, existence precedes essence, anxiety, freedom, and nothingness and also discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.