

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People live in this world is dealing with their existence. With their existence in this world, the people have a human right to choose their right. The existence series, such as existence for justice, existence to get a job, existence to get happiness, existence for freedom, existence for love, existence to get achievement, and also existence for life. According to Dagun (1990: 51), every existence has a distinctive character.

Kierkegaard distinguishes three forms of existence, the aesthetic form, the form of ethical and religious forms. The existence of aesthetic concerns about art and beauty. Human existence has a great interest in things outside themselves, such as experience of emotion and passion. While the existence of ethical attention on the situation of his mind. Man is supposed to be more determined by the inner in accordance with general norms. Then the existence of religious concerns in something that is an absolute God. The entire concerned God does not make sense man. Transfer of human logical thinking into this religious from bridged only through religious faith. This is Kierkegaard's thoughts on human existence.

Choice is central to human existence, and it is absolute. Even the ignore to choose is a choice. Responsible in his choice in man's effort to search a meaningful life. It means that by this effort, a man tries to get

freedom of choice entails commitments and responsibility. Because individuals are to choose their own path, they must accept the risk and responsibility of following their commitment wherever it leads. Regarding the existentialism as man's effort to search meaningful life, man's real choice is that between a good life and a bad life. Thus, the final decision is the meaning of life. (Sartre, 2002: 80)

Atheist existentialist, such as Heidegger, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Albert Camus find to tenets characteristics of existentialism that existence precedes essence and subjectivity is the starting point. They all argued that philosophy should be starting point on a concrete man, the man as existence. And in connection with this starting point they agree that for humans existence precedes essence." (Hassan, 1985: 7)

As Sartre points out in details anguish as the consciousness of freedom, is not something that human being welcome (Sartre, 2002: 49). By existing, he tries not only to choose but also decides with his choice to have meaningful life.

My Sister's Keeper is a novel written by American author Jodi Picoult. This novel was published in Great Britain in 2004 by Hodder and Stoughton An Hachette Livre UK company. This novel consists of 407 pages and 10 chapters.

Jodi Picoult was born in 1966 on Long Island, New York. When she was young she had an ambition to be a writer. She studied writing at

Princeton University and master in Harvard University. Her first story, when she was 5 years old "*The Lobster Which Mishunderstood*", and she had two short stories was published by Seventeen Magazine while still in college. Jodi Picoult got esteem New England Book Award for her fiction. In 2006 she has made 13 novels and most of them were talk about family, privacy, and love. At present Jodi Picoult lives in New Hampshire together with her husband and her child's. She is married to Tim Van Leer whom she met while in college. They have three children, Sammy, Kyle, and Jake.

Novel *My Sister's Keeper* tells about the relationship in the family. There is a problem in that family. The story begins when Kate, a daughter of the couple husband and wife, Brian and Sarah Fitzgerald convicts suffering of leukemia, a blood and bone marrow cancer. Kate has been suffered from the deadly disease since she was still very young. Certainly, Brian and Sarah are very panic to hear the verdict from doctor, stating that their daughter is still very young suffering leukemia, especially her mother, Sarah is very sad to hear that. Then they find a way out and continue to strive so that their child can survive and recover from the disease, although they know that the possibility of a cure is very small. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Brian always tried everything to make Kate healthy. Even the doctors ever said to her mother that she could help her from this disease. She should get leukosit donor, the main cell, and the marrow o bone. The function of it was to make a lay for her body to think that her

body was in healthy condition. They tried to rake through of Jesse, but Jesse could not help Kate. The reason was that Kate's need was not suitable with Jesse. They made a decision to have a child, and they could get it. Mrs. Fitzgerald had a new baby. Her name is Anna Fitzgerald. It means that they had a child to help Kate.

Anna, Kate's younger sister was conceived as a savior sibling, in order to harvest blood from her umbilical cord to use in treatments to help save Kate's life. Although the treatment was initially successful, Kate relapsed ever since. Anna, the only compatible family member, has been used as a donor for any other bodily substance needed to treat Kate, who continues to swing between remission and relapse as she grows up.

Anna is usually willing to donate whatever Kate needs, but when she is 13, she is told that she will have to donate one of her kidneys. The surgery required for both Kate and Anna would be major; it is not guaranteed to work, as the stress of the operation may well kill Kate anyway; and the loss of a kidney could have a serious impact on Anna's life. Anna, who still wants to have fun with her childhood, should retain for not doing activities if she has only a kidney. Anna thinks that she has right to live and lead a normal like everyone else, especially not to support her sister alive. Ana is entitled to the organs of her body, although it is for reasons of humanity especially her sister, but her mother has no right to force her to continuously sacrificing for her sister. Anna petitions for medical emancipation with the help of lawyer Campbell

Alexander, so that she will be able to make her own decisions regarding her medical treatment and the donation of her kidney. On the way to visiting Kate in the hospital, Anna and Campbell got an accident. Campbell is fine, but Anna got brain death, she could not be saved. Therefore, Anna's organ was donated to Kate who needed her kidney. Long after Anna passed away, everything goes normal. Kate was alive because the kidney transplantation was successful, Jesse became a cop, Julia and Campbell got married, Brian and Sarah were still grieved.

My Sister's Keeper is a novel that has many public responses. The responses come from readers, critics, market, and book industries. This novel has been reviewed in some mass media. Mominseattle wrote his review in New York Times, June, 6th, 2010. He said that "as a parent who has lost a child, I must say I loved this novel. According to me, it was very realistic and heartbreaking. Sarah Fitzgerald wasn't a villain, she was a mom put in a horrible situation trying to do the right thing. it's very hard to let go. Another review, This novel is categorized as the best seller novel with rating 1,553,639 in Books. This novel got awards Best Book of the year 2005, Winner of the Margaret Alexander Edward, Winner of the 2006-2007 Maryland Black Eyed Susan Book Award, Virginia Reader's Choice Award 2007.

There are contras of this novel. The contra, said that novel *My Sister's Keeper* has a strength ending because the novel tells that Sarah is a good mom. In this novel Sarah very love her daughter Kate and she has

different way to Anna. It makes the reader disappointed. It delivered on Eugene Lalerson, July, 19th, 2009 by *New York Times*. According to the reader this novel has the strange ending. Other response delivered by Aliventi Asylum in *Washington Post* on May, 27th 2009, she said that “some issues not explored thoroughly, confusing structure for some, ending”.

There are five interesting points on the novel to be researched. The character and characterization in this novel are very unique to be a research. Mrs. Fitzgerald, she has emphasis character in this novel and Anna Fitzgerald has a strong principle to get a freedom for her life and she want to get a human right. She does not want to give one of her kidney for Kate. It is interesting case to be researched about what the reason of Anna who do not want to do this.

Second, is because this novel tells the story about the struggle of a 13 year old girl to get the medical emancipation from her parents. Anna Fitzgerald who is willing sacrifice her life to save her sister Kate from her suffered a rare leukemia.

Third, this novel has unique plot. Jodi Picoult uses jumping plot to tell story in the novel. Eventough it makes the reader confused to understand the plot, the conflict on the novel can be found and it can give the strong memories. It also makes the reader know the important point of this novel. The hanged ending gives interesting perception for the readers,

because the readers can imagine and conclude the story by their own opinion.

The last points, the novel has the crucial and interesting theme that can be discussed. The theme of this novel is the sacrifice of the young child to get the right to life.

According to those reason, the writer would like to analyze the existence of Anna Fitzgerald (*My Sister's Keeper*) based on Existentialist Criticism. The title of this research is **ANNA FITZGERALD'S EXISTENCE REFLECTED AT JODI PICOULT *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* (2004): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

My Sister's Keeper novel (2004) by Jodi Picoult is an interesting novel. As far as the writer concerns, in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and some universities in central java, there are many people has analyzed before. Based on the reason, the writers try to make a new issue about this novel that no one ever analyzed it before. The writer try to analyze an implication of right to live in *My Sister's Keeper* by an existentialist approach. Studies on Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* were conducted by several scholars. There are as follows:

First, Kari Kjos's "Savior Siblings: A Case Study Based on *My Sister's Keeper*" (2010). She found that medical emancipation is allowed to

save the child's right. Everyone has own body to save. Nobody can interfere what our body will be made. Medical emancipation is the movement to show that human's organ is not commercial thing to buy by everyone as they want.

Second, Reni Damayanti's *The Anxiety of Anna Fitzgerald* (2011) she investigated the dilemma of Anna Fitzgerald in her life. Based on theory of personality by Sigmund Freud, Anna has strong Id and ego to possess her life. The conflict started when Anna was confused in conducting her superego. Dilemma commonly starts in human's life. The solution is created to make it balanced.

Third, Ika Yoga Ratnasari in her thesis wrote "Struggle for Right in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*: an Individual Psychological Approach" (2011) to discuss the importance of human right. *My Sister' Keeper* explores the medical, legal, ethical and moral issues related to long term-illness, a complicated subject in the contemporary world.

Fourth, Linda Ratna Susila (2014), Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Her thesis entitled, "Child Right Reflected in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*: A Sociological Perspective." She analyses the important of child right. Based on sosiological perspective, Jodi Picoult wants to show a child that wants to prosecute her mother in the court because she wants to get her right in medical emancipation.

The last researcher is Dini Herawaty (2010), The States Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim of Malang Student with the thesis entitled “Psychological Dilemma of The Major Characters in Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper*”. In her research, she finds the id, ego, and superego of both Anna and Sara take the place in every decision they have made.

This research will be completed and it can enrich the five previous researches above. This research is different from them, it focuses on the existence of Anna Fitzgerald with using existentialist approach. That’s why this research is crucial to be conducted.

C. Problem Statement

The problem that will be analyzed in this thesis is based on the background explained before. In order to reach the goal, the writer chooses the following problem statements. How is the existence of Anna Fitzgerald reflected at Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper* Novel (2004) using existentialist approach?

1. How is the existence of Anna Fitzgerald reflected at Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper* (2004) novel?
2. How is the structural analysis of Jodi Picoult’s *My Sister’s Keeper* (2004) novel?

D. Limitation of Study

In order to focus on the study, the writer limits her study on the problem of Anna Fitzgerald Existence on Sartre's theories of existentialism.

E. Objectives of the Study

This research that the writer wants to analyze focus on:

1. To analyze Anna Fitzgerald's Existence in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* Novel (2004) based on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To analyze Anna Fitzgerald's Existence in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* Novel (2004) based on existentialist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

This study will give some benefits in this following ways bellow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give contribution and information to English literary studies, particularly the application of existentialist theory.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For getting deeper understanding about existentialist issues in *MySister's Keeper novel*.
- b. For getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

1. Type of Study

In the study, the writer applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using existentialist approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follows:

- a. Determining the type of study
- b. Determining the object of the source
- c. Determining data and data source
- d. Determining technique of data collection
- e. Determining technique of data analysis

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult published in 2004 by Hodder and Stoughton An Hachette Livre UK Company.

3. Type of the Data and Data Sources

a. The Type of Data

The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *My Sister's Keeper* (2004) by Jodi Picoult.

b. The Type of Data Source

There are two types of data sources, namely primarily and secondary data as follows:

1) Primary Data

The primary data sources is the novel of *My Sister's Keeper* published by Hodder and Stoughton An Hachette Livre UK Company.

2) Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the existence that supports the existentialist approach.

4. Technique of Collecting the Data

The technique of data collecting is note-taking, and the steps are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion

5. Technique of Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows:

- a. The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements.
Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel.

- b. The second step is analyzing the data based on existentialist approach. Focus will be paid on the Anna Fitzgerald's existence.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make it easier to understand. This research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of the Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method and Paper Organization. Chapter II deals with Underlying Theory, it consists of Notion of Existentialism, The Sartre's Major Points of Existentialism, it consists of; Being, Existence Before Essence, Consciousness (Cogito), Freedom to Choose, Anxiety, Transcendence of Ego, Structural Element of the Novel, Theoretical Application. Chapter III is structural analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* novel. It covers (1) Structural elements of *My Sister's Keeper* novel; it consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme; (2) Discussion. Chapter IV is Existentialist Analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* novel. Its consists of the Being aspect, Existence Before Essence aspect, Consciousness (Cogito) aspect, Freedom to Choose aspect, Anxiety aspect, Transcendence of Ego aspect and Nothingness aspect. Chapter V is Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.