CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

According to Shipley, quest is a journey toward success. Quest can be defined from an individual or organizational perspective. It can be negative or positive and the stages are call to adventure, they journey and the return (Shipley: 2011). Quest is the important thing in human life. Humans are curious for quest of a lot of things in every single way of life. When we are in the school, we quest for many answers for a lot of query from our teacher. When we are in the workplace, we quest how to be an excellent worker. And in religion we try to quest how we can be enhanced and find a good way to meet the God. Quest is very close with every situation of human life. It is one of the best ways to find the essence of life. So we can live with our good and exact principal rules made by us because we always try to quest of something.

According to Pat M. Keith, Life is a typology of life and death was investigated in relation to employment characteristics comparisons, work orientation, and depressive symptoms among funeral directors (Pat M. Keith: 1998). Life is the first part of human to find who we are. One of a big point in life is togetherness. Human cannot live unaccompanied. We require someone to lend a hand us to do whatever thing in this world. We are connected with each other. Such as Little Prince, he is someone who has a big curiosity and tries to find the quest of life. He tries to answer something interrupting on his thoughts about what the important of life even though he is still six years old. He meets some people in the different planets to help him to answer his strange question. He
feels an adult has complicated thoughts to explicate something, but actually the case is not complicated as they thought.

The Little Prince Novel was published in New York when World War II happened in April, 1943. The Little Prince Novel is about a boy who is curious about life and he acts to quest what the important thing in life is. He crosses the universe and arrives in six planets then he meets with six different people with different background of work. He asks them about something which interrupts on his thoughts. But at the end of his excursion he finds the answer from him selves.

The narrator tells how his plane crashes in the desert, where he meets the Little Prince, a mystical creature from another planet. The Little Prince leaves the planet the place where he lives to see the universe. He looks for best friends. His planet is very small, not bigger than a house. Looks like an asteroid called ‘Asteroid B 612’. Because the planet is tiny, he can see the sunset 43 times a day. In his planet grows a disturbing tree. The tree is called Baobab. Actually baobab is beautiful tree, but baobab grows and grows in that small planet. And the Little Prince shall pull every baobab seed everytime it appears.

In his journey he is successful arriving in six asteroids where he meets six adults inhabitants who do something ‘odd and silly’, which represent six basic characteristics of human. The first one is The King. He claims that he holds the power of the planets and stars. He controls the power with his command and judges all of things include human. The King asks The Little Prince becomes his Minister of Justice in his planet. But, the little prince refuses, because no one will bring to justice. Then, The Little Prince arrives in the second planet. He meets the conceited man. He is a man who wants to be adored and respected by others. He just wants to hear people say about a lot of good things about himself and does not want to hear anything except that.
In the third planet, The Little Prince meets the drunkard. He asks him what the problems he wants to forget. He replies the problem that he is drunkard. Then, the little prince arrives in the fourth planet and he meets a businessman. He is always busy to count the stars. He claims that the stars belong to him because no one possesses the stars and no one before thoughts they want to be the owner of the stars.

In the fifth planet, he meets the lamplighter. This is the smallest planet and revolutes every minute. The lamplighter has a job to turn off the lamp every morning and turn in on the lamp in the night.

The little prince arrives in sixth planet. This planet is ten times larger than the last one. The planet is inhabited by an old gentleman who writes voluminous books. The geographer spends his time to make voluminous books without leaving his table. Moreover he never knows about his planet. He receives the explorers in his study. Then, the geographer recommends the little prince to visit Earth.

So then the seventh planet is the Earth. Earth is extraordinary planet. There are 111 kings (not forgetting, to be sure, the Negro kings among them), 7000 geographers, 900,000 businessmen, 7,500,000 tipplers, 311,000,000 conceited men—that is to say, about 2,000,000,000 grown-ups. When the little prince arrives on the Earth, he is very surprised not to see any people. He is beginning to be afraid he has come to the wrong planet, when a coil of gold, the color of the moonlight, flashes across the sand.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery was born on June 29, 1900, in Lyon, France. He is the third of five children of the Countess Marie de Fonscolombe and Count Jeant de Saint-Exupery (1863-1904). He is a France aristocrat, writer, poet, and pioneering aviator. He becomes a laureate of several of France’s highest literary awards and also wins the U.S. National book award. He is best remembered for his novella *The Little Prince (Le Petit Prince)* and for his lyrical aviation writings, including *Wind, Sand, and Stars* and *Night*
Saint-Exupery is a successful commercial pilot before World War II, working airmail routes in Europe, Africa and South America. His literary works among them *The Little Prince*, are translated into over 250 languages and dialects. He earns further widespread recognition with international translation of his other works.

*The Little Prince* Novel by Saint-Exupery is a fascinating novel. There are four reasons that make this novel interesting to analyze. First the novel is good, the researcher loves the plot. In other word the researcher says the book is unique. The writer creates the main character as a children 6 years old who is very curious with how grow up the way to think and he travels around the universe to find what the important of life is.

The second, this novel is a legendary novel from France. This novel firstly was published in 1943 (in World War II). Since 1943 the novel has been translated in many languages, including in bahasa Indonesia.

Third, this novel tells a good story. The main character meets 6 people in six different planets in universe. And all of the six people represent six characteristics of human.

The last reason this book should be read by grown-ups although the main character is a child six years old. Because it needs more imaginations and rationalities to understand and to know how children think. This is the best that the researcher gets from this book.

From the analysis and the reasons which are mentioned above, the researcher tries to make an analysis related with an existentialist approach. The title of the research paper is “QUEST FOR LIFE REFLECTED IN ANTOINE DE SAINT - EXUPERY’S THE LITTLE PRINCE NOVEL (1943): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.”
B. Literature Review

_The Little Prince_ novel by Saint-Exupery is about a boy who is curious about life and he acts to question what the important thing in life is.

The research that relates to the writer’s study has been done by Eko Prasetyo (College Literature, 2008) entitled _The Indonesian Equivalence of “The Little Prince” a research paper a faculty of letter: English Department as a partial of requirement for Undergraduate in English Literature_. This research examines the way in translate this story book and solve the problem faced by the translator in carrying out this story book by Saint-Exupery.

Bejumaio, (America, 2011) entitled _A Report on The Little Prince_ analyzes about the story that can be roughly parted into two parts. The journey on other small planet is the first part. He is deeply impressed by the six persons on the other six planets. They have their own special values and living ways. Each of them can represent one type of people in our human society. And the second part is grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to always and forever explain things to them.

Paulo (Multinlupa city, 2012) entitled _The Little Prince Novel Research Paper_ shows that he analyzes how the story transforms and touches to the readers. And it is very little and modest way to millions of hearts all over the world. A very simple and easy way to know the readers understand the story with their own perspectives.

Didi (America, 2003) in his research paper entitled _The Little Prince by “Saint Exupery”: A Visionary Heart_ analyzed that if the story is sad-ending but enlightened, completed with child-like drawings which are accompanied by explanations that encourage the reader to see the meaning in the drawings, more than the literal sketches. By illustration and by words, Saint-Exupery draws the reader into his vision
and subtly exhorts the reader to lift his focus from that of an adult, critical reader into the realm of fantasy and enlightenment.

Jaqui Godsi (New York, 2000) entitled *The Literary of The Little Prince* shows that one of the predominant themes of *The Little Prince* is the treasure found in true friendship. Connected to this is the issue of “taming” with its associated “rites” which in the discipline and responsibility it demands, cultivates the eternal bond that is the essence of friendship. Another theme, no less important, is that while children have imagination that is capable of understanding the essence of things, grown-ups have their imaginations encumbered by attachment to the quantifiable. They have lost the curiosity of childhood, and their lives are bound by the here and now. What we see with our eyes is merely a shell; the essential reality of things is detected only by the heart. These themes and issues are also reflected and clarified in the simplistic but expressive watercolor illustrations by Saint-Exupery.

Alyssa Rosales (England, 2013) entitled *An Analysis of the Little Prince by Antoine De Saint Exupery*. This study shows the Alyssa’s analysis about the little prince in different point of view. She analyzes the story in adult point of view. In her analyze about the little Prince she is interested with the straight view from adult.

The Commonweal magazine (America, 1943) writes *The critical review of The Little Prince Novel* states when reading The Little Prince, the reader is moved to confess that here lies something so pure, so simple, so tender, and yet so imbued with intricate significances. At least, it seems that is what should be recognized. If it touches the heart, then it has indeed reflected the very essence of what the story is telling in a gentle and subtle way. For a child’s heart to be touched by this story is not a difficult task, for they have as yet not, it tarnished by the trivial things of the world that grown-ups have succumbed to. For the latter, on the other hand, it may be a more
painful experience as the realization of what Saint-Exupéry is alluding to peels away those layers with which “something serious” (Saint-Exupéry 20) has blemished the heart and imagination. Published as a book for children, it is nevertheless a book all adults should read.

Edward Rothstein (New York, 2014) in his journal entitled *The Morgan Explorers the Origins of The Little Prince* stated ‘*The Little Prince’* At the Morgan, though, the book is approached from another direction. Christine Nelson, curator of literary and historical manuscripts, has focused this exhibition not just on the book, but on its origins as well. Despite its foreign language and exotic locales (Saint-Exupéry never learned English), it is closely connected to New York. This novel is very important for Morgan Library and Museum. So they keep the historical story of *The Little Prince* novel at Morgan Library and Museum.

Chris Marling (England, 2014) entitled *The Little Prince: Make Me a Planet* is a book guide for a game which is inspired from *The Little Prince Novel* by Saint De-Exupery. It is quick playing (20-30 minutes) tile placement game for two to five players. The whimsical artwork on the 80 sturdy cardboard tiles will be familiar to anyone who has read The Little Prince; beyond that you just get five player markers (the scoreboard is on the bottom of the box) and a short rules sheet. If you strip the theme away, players are drafting their own four-by-four grid of tiles over 16 short playing rounds (more on the drafting later). Four of these tiles will determine what symbols you will need on your tiles to score points; whoever scores best from these tiles at the end of the game wins.

Emily Temple (America, 2013) in her journal entitled *Literary People on Life, Love, and ‘The Little Prince’* analyzed if *The Little Prince* novel is classic kids book for adults or adults book for kids. She explains if *The Little Prince* novel is wildly
important book to many of us. This novel has historical story of publishing book around the world. With the simple illustration but has a wide meaning of the book.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of this study is “How the quest of life reflected in Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s *The Little Prince* novel”?

D. Research Limitation

To focus on the study, the researcher focuses on the analysis of Quest of life reflected in Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s *The Little Prince* novel (1943) especially viewed by existentialism approach.

E. Objective of Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze Quest of life reflected in Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s *The Little Prince* novel (1943) based on its structural elements by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot and theme.

2. To analyze Quest of life reflected in Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s *The Little Prince* novel (1943) based on existentialism approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are some benefits expected from this study, as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

   This study can contribute to the development of the body of knowledge about literary study especially existentialist approach in the literary studies on *The Little Prince* novel.
2. **Practical Benefit**

The researcher gets some information about existentialism approach that may help to analyze students in society and to give a deeper understanding to the other researches who intend to analyze the Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s *The Little Prince* novel (1943) by existentialism approach.

G. **Research Method**

1. **Type of the Study**

The writer uses qualitative research in this research because there is no need statistic data. The data sources are library and literary data.

The goal is to analyze *The Little Prince* novel using existentialism approach.

The steps to conduct the research are as follows:

a. Determining the type of the study,

b. Determining the object of the study,

c. Determining data and data source,

d. Determining technique of data collection, and finally,

e. Determining technique of data analysis.

2. **Object of the Study**

The object of this study is *The Little Prince* novel by Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s, to discuss the quest of life and existence that are reflected in the main character’s personality.

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

There are two types of the data namely primary data and secondary data which are needed in this research, as follows:

a. Primary Data
The primary data source of the study is *The Little Prince* novel by Antoine De Saint – Exupery’s.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the practice of *The Little Prince* novel that support Existentialism Analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The researcher uses note taking as method in collecting data. The steps are as following:

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 of analysis.

e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows: The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on existentialism perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of quest of life and existence.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “Quest of life reflected in Antoine De Saint- Exupery’s The Little Prince Novel (1943): An Existentialist Approach. There are follows: Chapter I is Introduction; consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit