CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Grolier Webster International Dictionary definition, literature is the classification of writings in which contains imagination, expression, meaningful and ideas. It can be produced from human mind in oral and written. Technical book, catalogue, textbook, brochure, pamphlet, and so on cannot be included as literature because Literature is the collection of ideas. Wellek (1962: 110) found “Literature is an idea which can be a philosophy and it is analyzed to yield a leading idea”. It delivers the ideas of author in form of writing and the ideas contain a meaningful message for readers. In case of leading ideas, it will survive for centuries as global universal value. Literature can be classified two categories; fiction and non-fiction. Literary nonfiction is a type of prose that employs the literary techniques usually associated with fiction or poetry to report on persons, places, and events in the real world. Literary fiction is the form of fictional oriented to the political criticism, social commentary and aspects of the human condition. It can be further distinguished according to major forms such as poetry and prose. Fiction prose is a literary work that is partly imagined or theoretical. It likes novel, drama, short story. Wellek and Warren (1970: 215) state that the novel is a thought of the author; it can be the characteristic features because of something happened in time is from author’s mind.

One of the great authors is Ernest Hemingway. According to Pickering and Hoeper (1981: 649) that the creation of literature can born from uniquely human activity; it showed on man's timeless desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences. Ernest Miller Hemingway is known as an American novelist, short
story writer, and journalist. Hemingway becomes famous because of his writing style. He gave a strong influence on 20th centuries to the literary world. From almost the beginning of his writing career, Hemingway's distinctive style becomes a great deal of comment and controversy. Basically, his style is simple, economical, direct, and probably as a result of his early newspaper training. A style of writer should be using words simple and direct, personal, and imagery rich. The greatest writers have the gift of brilliant ideas, are competent stylists. High (2000: 147) found “Hemingway’s style is usually short and simple, and rarely using adjective but sometimes using repeat short story. Levin (1957: 21) critics “Hemingway puts his emphasis on nouns because, among other parts of speech, they come closest to things. Stringing them along by means of conjunctions, he approximates the actual flow of experience”.

Hemingway had written twenty seven writing. There are ten novels, eleven short stories, and six non-fiction works, his controversial novels like a farewell to Arms (1929), The Sun Also Rises (1926), For Whom to Bell Tolls (1940) and the Old Man and The Sea (1952). Hemingway likes creating novels that follow a chronological order and a ‘typical’ of great American author. Of all the literary works that have been created by her, The Old Man and The Sea was the last novel that Hemingway created. The way of Hemingway describes the struggle of the main character in The Old Man and The Sea, gives him some credit. In 1953, this novel was awarded the Putlizer Prize Award, Award of Merit Medal for Novel from American Academy of Letters and Nobel Prize in literature from Nobel committee in 1954.

According to Baker (1962: 5) “The Old Man and The Sea shows Hemingway’s epilogue to all of his writing during his lifetime”. The Old Man and the Sea is the story of an epic struggle between an old fisherman and his greatest catch of his life. The setting of The Old Man and The Sea in a small village on the
northern coast of Cuba, below the Tropic of Cancer and not far from the capital city of Havana. At sea, the action takes place in Santiago’s boat who is fishing in north of Cuba in the Gulf Stream of Mexico. The time is about September in the late 1940's. Hemingway lived near Havana from 1940 until 1959. Hemingway wrote it in third-person point of view. In some parts of the novel, the narrator is an aloof observer who seeing only the actions of the main character, Santiago. In other parts of the novel, the narrator enters the mind of the old man and tells what he sees. In the latter case, the narration becomes omniscient third-person point of view. Although the narrator represents an objective account, at times he exhibits sympathy for the old man in his struggle against the marlin and etc.

Santiago is an unlucky Cuban fisherman because of he fished and returned empty-handed for eighty four days. Manolin, a boy, a good friend and partner for sailing, his parents were forced to leave and join another boat that lucky. But Santiago believes his unlucky life will be end soon. On the eighty fifth days, Santiago sails beyond the shore and travels to the gulf steam. At noon, he can be able to catch a big fish but the big fish pulled the boat away from the mainland for two days. When Santiago tries to kill the fish, he realizes that the fish is marlin. On the third days, Santiago succeeds to kill marlin with his harpoon and the blood of marlin leaves into water. During Santiago leads marlin to the shore, he gets attacked by several sharks who managed to eat the flesh of marlin but Santiago managed to kill all sharks. Santiago realizes that he is lucky and defeated. Finally, Santiago reaches the coastline and left the bones of fish beside his boat. At home, she slipped into bed and fell into a deep sleep and dreaming about lions in Africa.

The climax of this novel appears when sharks swarm and try to eat the marlin. Santiago fights to save his big catch without giving up. Although the sharks consume the marlin, Santiago proves that he is still a great fisherman. Some readers said that *The Old Man and The Sea* is one of the most successful of existentialism
Paradigms of existentialism appear in this novel especially when Santiago, the old fisherman, is determined to fell the great marlin he pursues, wants to prove to Manolin, the boy who he is, and contends against the brutal sharks when there is little chance of him succeeding. The story about the old man by Ernest Hemingway teaches us that we needs to struggle and endure as much as we can in our life, because we do not know how far we try until the god grants our wishes. And sometimes, after we gave our best but the result cannot be like our hope. In this time, we need more patient and sincere because the god always gives the best for man.

Existentialism study is a theory who proposed with developed unique existential philosophy by several existentialists. For Jasper, existence (Existenz) contains experiences of freedom and possibility in getting authentic being as individual by confronting the boundary situation (Grenzsituation) because the real of human cannot avoid its boundary situation in life. On the other hand, Nietzsche said claims existence as a philosophical problem in his distinction between moral autonomy (as obedience to the moral law) and autonomy beyond good and evil. But if one is to speak of autonomy, meaning, and value at all, the mode of being beyond good and evil cannot simply be a lawless state of arbitrary and impulsive behavior. Another theory of existentialism, borrowing from Heidegger’s concept, human reality is their selves which is the result of analysis of human life. But the context of reality is diverse possibility. Because these possibilities are built by the individual’s relationships with things and with other humans, existence is always a being-in-the-world.

*The Old Man and The Sea* novel represents ideas about an understanding of the existence of human being in much kind of aspects of life. Santiago is the representation of human being who is faced to the fact of the life which is the fact of human pursuit of existence. Human existence contains meaning of freedom and
awareness that presents the possibility to achieve the authenticity. According to Sartre (Heter, 2006: 49), “authenticity is form of a story about self-shaping. It contains fact and consciousness of the condition, assuming the impact, and responsibilities the condition involves”. Based on the idea above confirms that an individual as authentic human is someone who realizes that he made in the ‘situation’. However, he did not try to avoid this condition, but constantly appearing their presence by choosing their own choice and be responsible for all the risks behind their choice. Santiago can be able attain his existence because of his characters that reflected as human existence. On the other hand, this novel gives positive impact from the epic story about the old man. From the statement above, the researcher concludes that it is important to make analyze about human existence. Starting from this point, it becomes the main reason of choosing this thesis as entitled: **EXISTENCE OF HUMAN BEING AS REFLECTED IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY’S THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA NOVEL (1952): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.**

**B. Problem Statement**

Based on the previous background of the study, the researcher proposed the problem. These are the questions to discuss:

1. How is the human existence reflected by Santiago in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel?
2. What are the causes of Santiago to get his existence reflected in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel?
3. What are the effects of Santiago’s existence reflected in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel?
C. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is simply answering the problem proposed previously. So it is said:

1. To describe how the human existence reflected by Santiago is depicted in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel.

2. To make clear the causes of Santiago to get his existence are depicted in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel.

3. To find out what the effects of Santiago’s existence are depicted in *The Old Man and The Sea* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher limits the problem on the analysis about self-meaning in The Old Man and The Sea novel based on Existentialism approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the research can be clarified as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

   The result of this study is expected as contribution in the development of the knowledge, an academic reference to support theory of existentialism.

2. Practical Benefit

   This study is expected to make the readers comprehend in understanding human existence in literature especially for students of English department who have interest in Hemingway’s work to use existentialism approach of analysis. In other words, this study can be a comparison source for further researches.
F. Paper Organization

The research paper of “Self-Meaning in Ernest Hemingway’s novel *The Old Man and The Sea* (1952): An Existentialism approach”. The organization of research paper is given in order to make reader understand the content of paper, as follows: Chapter I contains introduction which consists of the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and paper organization. Chapter II is Literature review. It consists of Previous Study and Underlying Theory (existentialism in literature, literature and idea, the idea of human existence: existential philosophy, definition of existence, stages of life’s way, characteristics of human existence, moral value of human existence). Chapter III concerns with research method. In this chapter, it concludes the type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data source, method of collecting data, credibility of data, and technique of data analysis.