

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Everyone has their own right to choose what they want in their life. Freedom is how the persons are free to act everything on their mind (self-actualization). Freedom is natural human right, free to expressing the self-behavior, thinking etc. The nature of human being is how they are to exist in the society. Each of individual has a responsibility for their behavior in the society. So an individual is responsible for it is own volition and free without thinking deeply about what about what is right and what is not true. Actually, instead of not knowing what is true and what is not true, and trying to realize the truth of relative, each individual is free to choose something that they want.

According to oxford dictionary, freedom is right to do or say what we want without anyone stopping us (2008: 177). Aristotle defines freedom that humanly is free to say what they want to say, who exists for his own sake and not for another. If to be free is to have the deliberative capacity of apprehending appropriate ends for oneself and directing oneself toward them, then the perfection of freedom, the fulfillment of the *ergon* of a free man as such, is to do so well. The most manifestly free man is the one who apprehends the best ends achievable in human action and successfully directs himself toward it.

“Freedom is the right capacity of people to determine their own actions, in a community in which able to provide for the full development of human potentiality. Freedom maybe enjoyed by individuals but only in and through the community”. (Brett and McKay: 2012). There are kind of freedom namely positive freedom and negative freedom. Positive freedom is the capacity of a person to determine the best course of action and the existence of opportunities for them to realize their full potential. Then, negative freedom means the lack of force which prevents an individual from doing whatever they want.

According to Plato in Palmer (2009: 14) to be free is to stand in the presence of truth, and means to be free from the illusion and falsehood. True freedom is to do what is good and not merely “what one wants”. Humans need to exist to raise their needs in society. Exist to the world is one of human being, exist means how human act, behaviour and attitude in life. For human existence is openness, in contrast to other object there where was his object was also its essence, it is human existence precedes essence. According to Sartre in Hasan “Man is nothing else but his plan, exist only to the extent that he fulfill himself. He is therefore nothing else than the ensemble of his acts than his life (Hassan, 1985:103).” Men repetitive behavior without knowing the essence of these activities, but as something happens that does not fit to activities that he usually does the new man is aware of the essence of the events.

As an author's expression, literary work is a mirror that reflects any phenomenon faced by an author. Through a literary work, an author tries to present the phenomenon from their point of view. One of literary works that presents a social phenomenon is bound by Okky Madasari

The author of bound novel, Okky Madasari was born October 30, 1984 in Magetan, East Java, Indonesia. She graduated from Gajah Mada University's International Relations Department in 2005 with Bachelor Degree in Political Science. In 2012 she took Sociology for Master's Degree from the University of Indonesia, and graduated in July 2014 with a thesis on Genealogy of Indonesian Novels: Capitalism, Islam, and Critical Literature. She is an Indonesian Author, Journalist, and novelist.

Okky Madasari won Khatulistiwa Literary Award (KLA) for her novel *Maryam* (2012) which revolves around people who are displaced to their beliefs and the banned into exile. *Maryam* has been translated into English under the title *The Outcast* (2014). Her first novel, *Entrok* (2010) which tells a story about military dominance during Indonesia's brew order era, has been translated also into English with the title *The Years of the voiceless* (2013). Her other novels are *86* (2011) which raises the problems of massive corruption in Indonesia today and *Pasung Jiwa* (2013) which touches freedom of the individual within the contemporary Indonesia. *Pasung Jiwa* has also been translated into English under the title of *Bound* (July 2014).

The *bound* novel tells about the struggle of the characters in the search for freedom from all restraints from those mind and body, to restraints imposed by tradition and family and religion, to economic domination and the shackles of authority. There are two major characters of this novel, they are Sasana (Sasa) and Jaka Wani (Cak Jek). The story began from the Sasana, Sasana is male then he realize that his mind as a female (Sasa). He only male in his family, he has a sister who names Melati. His father works as a advocate and his mother as doctor in a hospital. A little sasana is smart children, his parents teach piano with the classic song. But, he realize his feeling he did not like playing piano. (Madasari: 2014)

The story continues when he graduated from school and continued to Malang. He felt be free in there. He met Jaka Wani (Cak Jek). He made Sasana to become Sasa, another part of Sasana personality. Sasana decide to leave his campus that he lectures. He lived with Cak Jek and get money from busking until they have got a job for singing in a celebration party. (Madasari: 2014)

They enjoy their life, they felt freedom although in society Sasana is reputed strange from people around him because he has two sex identities. When Cak Man tells about daughter that Cak Man lost contact with her, he assume that Marsini had been died. Then, Cak Jek, Sasana, Leman and Memed have to save Marsini who killed by her boss in the factory that she worked. (Madasari: 2014)

But their freedom is no longer exist when Sasana and friends struggle for Marsini's right. It made Sasana get into the jail. He degraded, he was reputed no longer felt human. He was afraid, he got painful, he got kicking, he got smacking, he got beating, he got torturing, he got sexual abuse and despicable treatment as transgender from soldiers in a jail (Madasari: 2014).

After he was free from a jail, he went to Jakarta for coming back to his parents. During he stayed in his home truly he felt trauma and stress if he remembered his past event. He remembered Cak Jek and another friends then he remembered when he was in jail. All of events so made him crazy and he did the something abnormal but he always felt right. Finally his parents sent him in to the Mental Hospital. In there he met Masita and Banua. Sasana had been free from the hospital cause Masita. Then after a few time Sasana came back again for his parents but his father cannot receive him and his mother choosed living with Sasana and his father with Melati. When Sasana lived with her mother, they was as a friend without becoming a mother was no longer who had demanded perfection of her kids, who had been disappointed and angry when her child had not lived up to her hopes (Madasari: 2014).

*Bound* novel is an interesting novel. There are three reasons that make this novel really interesting. First, the novel has inspiring story. The novel is about freedom to choose and Sasana's life. He felt that his body was the first trap, then his parents, then everyone he knew. Then it was everything he did. It was all snares strewn throughout his life.

Second, the novel explains conflict of each characters, Sasana has body trap to struggle in his life ignoring the social construct. Jaka Wani struggled to have good life without separate of social class and trying to get money for good economy life.

Third, the novel was written by Okky Madasari. She is an Indonesian novelist. She has been known to exquisitely portray social and political condition of the contemporary Indonesia. She won Khatulistiwa Literary Award (KLA) for her novel *Maryam* (2012), *Maryam* has been translated into English under the title *The Outcast* (2014). It means she introduces the competency of Indonesian author in international level. Based on the background above the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled **Freedom to Choose Reflected in Okky Madasari's *Bound* Novel (2014): An Existentialism Theory**

## **B. Problem Statement**

Considering the background above, the major problem of this research is how the major Characters get their freedom to choose. Based on the problem statement, the writer formulates the research question below

1. How is the characteristic of characters in existentialism?
2. What kind of freedom is reflected in the *Bound* novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze how the characteristic of the characters in the novel based on the existentialism
2. To describe the kind of freedom in the novel.

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

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing *Freedom to Choose Reflected in Okky Madasari's Bound Novel (2014): A Existentialism Approach*

#### **E. Benefit of the Study**

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is expected to give the information, benefits, and contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on *Bound* novel.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to help the present researcher to enrich his knowledge dealing by literary work to external elements, especially *Bound* by using Existentialism approach.

#### **F. Paper Organization**

The research paper of 'Freedom to Choose Reflected in Okky Madasari's *Bound (2014): A Existentialism Approach*. It is divided in five chapters. The details of the paper organization are **Chapter one** is introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement,

Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, and Paper Organization. **Chapter two** is Literature review. It consists of Previous Study and Underlying Theory (Notion of Existentialism of literature, and Notion Freedom of Choice). **Chapter three** is Research Method. It consists of Object of the Research, Types of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of Data Collection, and Technique of Data Analysis. **Chapter four** is Existentialism Analysis of Okky Madasari's *Bound* novel. **Chapter five** is Conclusion and Suggestion.