

CHAPTER II

UNDERLYING THEORY

A. Previous Studies

This research is related to several previous studies which are both studying about existentialism. And this research also has several differences. Muris (2013) in her thesis *The Existentialism In Sarah Winman's Novel "When God Was A Rabbit"*. Her thesis evaluated the aspect of existentialism revealed in Sarah Winman's novel "When God Was a Rabbit". Muris tried to analyze the aspect of existentialism in this novel, where this thesis has the purpose to evaluate the aspects of existentialism found in the novel "When God Was A Rabbit" by Sarah Winman. Her thesis used the theory of Gordon E. Bigelow about aspect of existentialism. Through the descriptive study, she found that there are five aspects of existentialism in this novel. They are existence precedes essence, alienation or estrangement, fear and trembling anxiety, the encounter with nothingness and freedom. After the evaluation phase, she concluded that the five aspects of existentialism exist in all of the characters in Sarah Winman's novel "When God Was A Rabbit". Febriansyah (2013) in his thesis *Existentialism Analysis In Ednah Walter's Novel "Awakened The Guardian Legacy"*. His thesis evaluated about the existence of the main character in the novel "Awakened The Guardian Legacy" by Ednah Walters. In this thesis he analyzed the existentialism of the main character by Cherry's theory. Through the descriptive study, he found there are three aspects of existentialism in this novel. They are freedom of choice, free will, and personal responsibility. After the evaluation phase he concluded that the three aspects of existentialism exist in the main character in novel "Awakened The Guardian Legacy" by Ednah Walter. Tan (2007) in his thesis "Existentialism And Samuel Beckett's Two Plays: Endgame And Happy Days". His thesis evaluated about existentialism in Samuel Beckett's plays "Endgame and Happy Days". Tan tried to analyze characterization, setting and use of language in this plays, where this thesis he found tendency to employ some existentialist concepts such as despair, anxiety

and thrownness on the way to authenticity. After evaluation phase he concluded although there are some differences, these plays show that Samuel Beckett's view of Existentialism is quite similar to the Sartrean view.

The other researches from Umar Wirahardi in his thesis "THE EXISTENTIALISM STUDIES ON DANIEL DEFOE'S ROBINSON CRUSOE'S FREEDOM OF LIFE". His thesis evaluated about interested in novels and existentialism thinking, characters always try to achieve success and struggle to get freedom of life. This study focuses its analysis on two significant problems, which lead to the goal, namely finding Robinson Crusoe's way to maintain his meeting and find out the relationship between Existentialism and freedom of choice.

A literary criticism taken from the descriptive technique applied. Data obtained entirely from the novel. Starting from an interest in the Existentialism experiment, researchers used the theory of Existentialism to find out the existentialism aspects of the novel, based on the characters supported by the novel.

B. Underlying Theory

In this section will discuss the theory used by the author to be able to do right research. The theory includes :

1. Moral Values

According to Reiss (1999), People do not live their lives in moral or ethical isolation but grow in certain moral traditions. Liberal democracy can only develop if its citizens hold certain moral and civil values, and manifest certain values (Berkowitz, 2006). In the modern era, technology influences society everywhere by maintaining its upright position, and both science and technology are also influenced by society. The rapid progress in science and technology and the increasing complexity of society also support the importance of morals, values and ethics and its benefits for society.

Moral refers to human behavior in which morality is a practical activity and, ethics illustrates the theoretical, systematic and rational reflection of human behavior (Churchill, 1982). Values

are related to beliefs and attitudes and guide human behavior (Rennie, 2007). Morals, values, and ethics are inherent in society, spirituality and culture (UN Scientific and Cultural Education Organization, 1991). There are three ethical meanings. First, ethics is generally taken as a synonym for morality, universal values and standards of behavior that every rational person wants others to follow. Second, ethics is an established branch of philosophy which studies the sources of human values and standards, and strives to find them in theories of individual human beings and social conditions. Third, professional ethics, and that is not universal, is also not ethical theory; refer to the special code of ethics that is adhered to by those who are engaged in a common pursuit (Kovac 1996)

Misunderstandings and misconception surround morals, values and ethics (Churchill, 1982). Morals, values, and ethics are sometimes difficult to understand because misunderstandings and misunderstandings around them prevent the arrival of the correct explanation. That the purpose of moral education lies in the fact that he can develop shared feelings with others, and make someone committed to one's personal responsibilities and actions (Campbell, 2008). Moral agency is a dual state that includes the teacher as a moral person who is involved in ethical teaching through professional behavior and, as a moral educator who teaches students with the same core values and principles that he tries to uphold in practice (Campbell, 2003) . Ethical knowledge can capture the best essence of teaching professionalism because it allows teachers to appreciate the complexity of their moral agency (Campbell, 2008). Ethics is closely connected with the virtues of responsibility, trust and credibility. It must always be fair, honest, transparent, and respect the rights and privacy of others in society (Frank et al., 2011). A number of sets of values exist in society.

In the context of science, three domains of certain values are present in society: values related to education, values of science, and values of science education. These three values remain close, and interact or overlap with each other (Hildebrand, 2007). Thus science

cannot be separated from society. Values in science education include values related to teaching science in schools, epistemic values of science, social values and personal values of scientists. The existence of values is not context specific. For example, western science has values that are different from other original sets of values (Corrigan, Cooper N, Keast, & King, 2010).

2. Existentialism

Kierkegaard (in Panjaitan 1996:27) existentialism is related much with human's freedom. Every human is individual that differences with others, existentialism as a concrete and unique human individual manner. He said the most important that for human being is his existence. Existentialism is a philosophy that emphasizes individual existence, freedom and choice. It is the view that humans define their own meaning in life, and try to make rational decisions despite existing in an irrational universe. It focuses on the question of human existence, and the feeling that there is no purpose or explanation at the core of existence. It holds that, as there is no God or any other transcendent force, the only way to counter this nothingness (and hence to find meaning in life) is by embracing existence. Jean Paul Sartre in the book, in a book, *A Preface to Philosophy* states:

“Existentialism is a general orientation in philosophy with no set common principle. Among the theme stressed are the following: the importance of personal existence rather than abstract theorizing; the encounter with freedom and necessity of choosing; the denial of any fixed human nature and of universal moral codes; the desirability of authentic lifestyle; the encounter with death and meaninglessness” (Woodhouse/1975:154)

From the quotation above, it is clear that existentialism is a study that stresses freedom of choice, an individual who strives, who considers alternatives, who chooses, who decides and who above all commits himself...existence must refer to a quality in the individual. The term “existentialism” has mostly been associated with a cultural

movement that grew out of the wartime intellectual atmosphere of the Left Bank in Paris and spread through fiction and art as much as philosophy. Existentialism is frequently viewed, therefore, as an aesthetic movement rooted in certain philosophical thoughts and supplanting surrealism at the centre of European artistic fashion.

a) . History of Existentialism

Existentialism is a term applied to the work of certain late-19th and 20th century European philosophers who, despite profound doctrinal differences shared the belief that philosophical thinking begins with the human subject—not merely the thinking subject, but the acting, feeling, living human individual. Kierkegaard as "father of existentialism" underlines inwardness ,and states, "all interpretations of existence take their rank in relation to the qualification of the individual's dialectical inward deepening". This mean take a risk to give all the result of rasional thinking, and surrender to the inner voice which tell us there is a different reality, a sphere of a different kind, transcending reason. He proposed that each individual not society or religion is solely responsible for giving meaning to life and living it passionately and sincerely, or authentically. Existentialism became popular in the years following World War II and strongly influenced many disciplines besides philosophy, including theology, drama, art, literature, and psychology. There are many major existentialists, such as Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Friedrich Nietzsche(1844-1900), Martin Heidegger (1889-1976), Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980),Karl Jaspers (1883-1969) and Albert Camus.

The term is often seen as a historical convenience as it was first appliedto many philosophers in hindsight, long after they had died. In fact, while existentialism is generally considered to have originated with Kierkegaard the first prominent existentialist philosopher to adopt the term as a selfdescription was Jean-Paul Sartre. Sartre himself, in a lecture delivered in1945, described existentialism as "the attempt to draw all the consequences from a position of consistent atheism. On other hand according to philosopher Steven Crowell (1983), defining

existentialism has been relatively difficult and he argues that it is better understood as a general approach used to reject certain systematic philosophies rather than as a systematic philosophy itself.

There are five basic themes of existentialism that the existentialist appropriates each in his or her own way. Rather than constituting a strict definition of 'existentialist', they depict more of a family resemblance (across-crossing and overlapping of the themes) among these philosophers (Thomas Flynn 2006:8).

- a. Existence precedes essence. What you are (your essence) is the result of your choices (your existence) rather than the reverse. Essence is not destiny. You are what you make yourself to be.
- b. Time is of the essence. We are fundamentally time-bound beings. Unlike measurable, 'clock' time, lived time is qualitative: the 'not yet', the 'already', and the 'present' differ among themselves in meaning and value.
- c. Humanism. Existentialism is a person-centred philosophy. Though not anti-science, its focus is on the human individual's pursuit of identity and meaning amidst the social and economic pressures of mass society for superficiality and conformism.
- d. Freedom/responsibility. Existentialism is a philosophy of freedom. Its basis is the fact that we can stand back from our lives and reflect on what we have been doing. In this sense, we are always 'more' than ourselves. But we are as responsible as we are free.
- e. Ethical considerations are paramount. Though each existentialist understands the ethical, as with 'freedom', in his or her own way, the underlying concern is to invite us to examine the authenticity of our personal lives and of our society. We can also see the concepts of existentialism from several existentialists. Solomon (1987:283), in his book, *From Hegel to Existentialism*, states that:

“...Existentialism is not a simply philosophy or philosophical revolt. Existentialist philosophy is the explicit conceptual manifestation of an existential attitude – a spirit of “the present age”. It is a philosophical realization of self consciousness living in a “broken world” (Marcel), an “ambiguous world” (de Beauvoir), a “dislocated world” (MerleauPonty), a world into which we are “thrown” and “condemned” yet “abandoned” and “free” (Heidegger and Sartre), a world which appears to be indifferent or even “absurd” (Camus).” These concepts were formulated into the idea of existentialism. In order to make a comprehend analysis; the researcher decides to use the characteristics of existentialism as the scope of analysis.

b.) Characteristics of Existentialism

According to Sartre in Pandiangan (2002:46) existentialism concept is classified into several characteristics:

1) Subjectivity

Subjectivity is judgment based on individual personal impressions and feelings and opinion rather than external facts. Hence Sartre (in Vinod Acharya, 2014:2) emphasizes subjective existence and define subjectivism as the freedom of the individual subject to choose what he will be. Subjectivity is self-transcendent, continually attempting to achieve itself, but its goal of self-achievement cannot be grasped in any determine formula. Sartre explains what subjectivity means according to existentialists and states, “Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself. It is also what is called subjectivity” (Pandiangan 2008). There is nothing objective about what a human being is. So, everything starts from the inside, from the side of the man or subject. In any case existentialism, in our sense of the world, is a doctrine that does render human life possible; a doctrine, also, which affirms that every truth and every action imply both an environment and a human subjectivity” (Sartre in Pandiangan 2008). Sartre claims that subjectivity does not degrade human beings; on the contrary, it gives man dignity for two reasons. One is that subjectivity is

uniquely owned by humans. The other is that, if man makes himself what he thinks he ought to be, then he is making himself in accordance with what he thinks a human being ought to be. In other words, in making choices, human beings are also choosing what is good for all. For example, if one chooses a monogamous type of marriage, then he chooses monogamy as the type which ought to be good for all humans. Based on the explanation above we can conclude subjectivity as one of the characteristics of human existence has a clear concept. The concept states that subjectivity is the first principle of human existence and subjectivity is always individual. It exists for every person and depends on individual quality.

2) Conscious being in the world

Conscious being in the world is the state of being able to use senses and mental power to understand what is happening in the world. According to Muzairi (2002:46) an individual is unique, not an object or general. Because of his / her uniqueness, human beings are – individual who exists in a conscious being in the world. Human being must have consciousness as the responsibility towards his/ her existence. The conscious being in the world becomes a moving factor in proving human existence. It states human responsibility and responsibility

3) Contingency

Contingency is the effective experience of human being in actual world. Indeed, the existence of human being is not an observation but contingency; which is the effective experience in the world. According to A.R. Rastogi this contingency is often characterised by experience of death, horror, anguish, bewilderment, uncertainty and finally hunted by death. Jean Paul Sartre concerns the contingency as he states: “When existentialist talk of existence, they are talking of human existence.

4) Anti-Materialism

Anti-Materialism is the doctrine which refuses the judgment based on materialistic values, only. Materialism regards human being as

the result of materialistic process, that body, soul, passion and life of man represent the material (Pandiangan, 2008). While anti materialism regards the existence of human being is quite considerable. It is something called existence beyond the material itself. Anti materialism denies this perspective that human being can not be equaled with the object or thing. We can't compare the existence of human being to the existence of an object because man's existence precedes essence while an object doesn't. This becomes the source of anti materialism. Based on the explanation above we can conclude anti-materialism as a characteristic of existentialism which human being do not interested with materialism when they think about her/his existence.

5) Humanity

Humanity is dealing with condition of human being in the life. It concerns the values of lives which determine the existence of human being in the world. When the term of humanity being related with individual being, it will discover the fact of human existence, which is can be understood by fully accepting the human condition. Existential humanism is a concept that can be understood in several different ways, each tending to validate the human subject as struggling for self-knowledge and self-responsibility.

6) Faith

Faith is a belief or commitment towards the values of life. This debate brings the study of human existence into 2 sides, religious existentialists and non religious (atheist) existentialists. Karl Jaspers elaborates a concept of philosophical faith' that he distinguishes both from the faith of revealed religion and from atheism (in Flynn 2006:56).

a. The religious existentialists believe God as the source of all existence. Faith becomes the representation of God existence and it is manifested into religions. The study of former existentialism cannot be separated from the Christianity which affected most of existentialists. According to Prasad (1987:620) even a description

of God's nature by religion must describe the basic facts. If religion tends to place God at a high pedestal and makes man completely subordinate to it.

b. The non religious existentialist rejects the perspective above that their belief is the existence of human being only. Jean Paul Sartre, Heidegger, Camus, and Maurice M. Ponty. According to them, man is dealing with himself in an absolute freedom, planning his own future and creating his own values. According to Prasad (1987:625) atheistic existentialism will appear to be on the side of religion at least for all intents and purpose. Thus we come to an interesting conclusion that in atheistic existentialism there is a scope for a true religion. Based on the explanation above we can conclude faith as the part of human nature which dealing with existence. It is clear that human being lives by faith, although it differentiates them into different perspective.

3. Character

Kennedy (1983: 45) said that a character might be a person imagined who inhabits a story. Usually in the main characters of the story, we recognize human personalities that become familiar to us. However, most literary story writers try to create characters that attack us, not as stereotypes, but as unique individuals. If a character suddenly appears suddenly, as if denying what we already know about his nature or personality, we believe that he has a reason and sooner or later we will find it.

In addition, Kennedy (1966: 280) explains that E.M Forster in his book *Aspects of The Novel*, divides characters into flat and round characters. Flat characters or referred to as simple characters, are built around a single idea or quality and are presented in an outline and without many individual details, so that they are explained in a single phrase or sentence. It's a flat character because we only see one side of him. Furthermore, Forster (in Stevick, 1964: 225) states that there are two advantages to having a flat character in a novel. First, they are easily recognized every time they are in the emotional eye of the reader.

Second, readers easily remember it afterwards. Flat characters remain in the reader's mind as unalterable for the reason that they are not changed by circumstances.

While round characters or referred to as complex characters are clearly more lively than simple as people in real life, because in life, people don't just have a single attitude. Spherical characters are complex in temperament and motivation, represented by subtle distinctions, so it is difficult to describe them as people in real life. This is called a round character, because we can see all sides of him. The complexity of characters tends to produce a lifetime of fictional work. Perrine (1979: 68) states that round characters are complex and that many facets may require an essay for full analysis.

On the basis of importance, we can distinguish two types of characters; they are the main character or main and minor characters. Main characters such as Koesnosoebroto (1988: 67) say that it is the most important character in a story, because a story tells about this character. But he cannot stand alone, so he needs other characters to make the story more convincing and lively. Furthermore, while minor characters are less important than main characters, they therefore play a small role (Koesnosoebroto, 1988: 67).