

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is composed of those books, and of those books only, which, in the first place, by reason of their subject-matter and their mode of treating it, are general human interest; and in the second place, the element of form and gives the pleasure which to be regarded as essential (William 10). William Henry Hudson also said in his book entitled *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*. He said that literature is a work that strongly impelled to confide to others what we think and feel; hence the literature which directly expresses the thoughts and feelings of the writer (12).

Literature has three genres there are prose, poetry, and drama. **Prose** refers simply to any written piece of work that is built on sentences and paragraphs rather than lines or verses like poetry. There are two basic of prose: non-fiction and fiction. Novel is one of the fiction types of prose. A novel is one of literary works that has long story and made by author. It expresses the experience of the author, but not all novels tell the true story. There are some novels that tell about imagination story. Arnold Kettle said in his book entitled *An Introduction to The English Novel* that a novel is living thing, all 'one and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is something of the other parts (Kettle 12).

The researcher has chosen a novel as her object to analyze. It is because a novel has the longest form than the other genres of literary works. By having the

longest form than the other literary works, so that novel gives the researcher more detail information of the story for her analysis. In this research, the researcher analyzes a novel written by Mark Twain entitled *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Mark Twain was born in Florida, Missouri on [November 30, 1835](#) and then died in Redding, Connecticut on [April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1910](#). Actually the name of Mark Twain was not his real name, but his real full name is Samuel Langhorne Clemens or more known as Samuel Clemens. Samuel L. Clemens wrote under the pen name Mark Twain and went on to author several novels, including two major classics of American literature: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He was also a riverboat pilot, journalist, lecturer, entrepreneur and inventor. Mark Twain has a wife named [Olivia Langdon](#) and three children named Susy, Clara, Jean (Mark Twain Biography).

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a written by Mark Twain and published in the United Kingdom in 1884. This novel commonly named among the Great American Novels (Litcharts.com). Even though this novel is not an existentialism novel, but after the researcher read the novel there is existence side that shown by the main character named Huckleberry Finn during his adventure in the novel. This novel told about the journey of a boy named Huckleberry Finn called Huck. The story began with Huckleberry Finn was bored with his life and he wants to be free from all of the rules given by Widow Douglas. Beside he wants to be free from Widow Douglas's rules in her house, Huck also wants to be free from his father named "Pap" Finn.

To be free from Widow Douglas, Huck's adventures began with his best friend named Tom Sawyer. His adventures with Tom Sawyer started with make a robber group with Tom's gang as the members. But gradually one by one of its members out and the robber group was dispersed. And the other adventures begin when Huck succeed to run off from his father "Pap" Finn. In the way of his run off, Huck met Jim as Miss Watson's slave. Jim tells the reason of his run off and then Huck promise with himself if he will help Jim to be free from the slavery by Miss Watson. The struggle of Huckleberry Finn who wants to be free and help Jim to be a free man like above which suitable with Jean Paul Sartre concepts of human existence.

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is one of literary works that inspiring the readers with his struggles during his adventures in this novel. Huck has his own character that represented the existence of human being. By using existentialism theory, the researcher will analyze the existential side of Huckleberry Finn as the main character in this novel which starts from his adventure with Tom Sawyer, and then his adventure when he run off from his father and met Jim until his great struggle during the adventure to help Jim became free as the slave of Miss Watson.

Existentialism in the literature in *The Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms* means literary and philosophical responses to the experience of nothingness, anomie and absurdity which attempt to discover meaning in and through this experience (Child & Fowler 78). The term "existentialism" refers to a literary movement of the mid- twentieth century which holds that man has

complete freedom to determine his own fate. The actions he chooses in fact determine his existence (Storybites.com). In the 1940s and 1950s, French existentialists such as [Jean-Paul Sartre](#), Albert Camus (1913 - 1960), and Simone de Beauvoir (1908 - 1986) wrote scholarly and fictional works that popularized existential themes, such as dread, boredom, alienation, the absurd, freedom, commitment and nothingness (Mastin 2008).

The researcher takes the title of this research with “The Existentialism in Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”. Because after the researcher read the novel there was existence’s sides in the novel. So that by using the existentialism theory the researcher analyze the existence’s side that contained in the novel .

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

Based on the background of the study, the researcher will analyze the main character in this novel named Huckleberry Finn or Huck. And below is the question of this research:

1. How is the character of Huckleberry Finn described in the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain?
2. How does Huckleberry Finn show his existence in the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain?



## **1.6. Method of the Study**

### **1.6.1. Research Design**

To answer the statement of the problem in this research, the researcher use library research. The researcher will use qualitative as a method and approach to analyze the main character in the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain because this research will show the result in the form of word and sentence not numeral.

#### **1.6.1.1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study in this research is the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain.

#### **1.6.1.2. Instrument**

The main instrument of this research will be human. In this research the instrument will be the researcher self.

### **1.6.2. Data Sources**

In this research, there are two sources of data which are primary and secondary data. The primary data source is the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. And the secondary data source is the researcher takes from eBooks, thesis, essay, journals or internet.

