CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literary Work is a phenomenon of a picture of life representing from time to time. A life written in a literary work is the result of an author is view. Literary work becomes a media for the author to portray the condition the community. It is same as Sumarjo's statement that literature is an experience of human life, thought, feeling, ideas, and faith in a form of real picture by using language as a media (Sumarjo3).

The development of literature has developed well toward the time, and has come to modern phase that influenced by globalization. Modern literature prefers to develop it works with a various genres, such as poetry, prose and drama (Kleden 7). The modern literary works has various theme, like social life evenmore the controversial things. There is no absolute truth, isolated, hope, historical rejection, seeing the phenomenon in the social system which sometimes cannot cope of human's satisfaction (Klarer72). These conditions motivate people to seek happiness by looking for identity. Therefore, Jon Krakauer writes a literary work about the story of a man who wants to live freely.

Jon Krakauer is a journalist and a man from America. One of his works is *Into the Wild*. Jon Krakauer writes *Into the Wild* which tells about a young man is named Christopher JohsonMcCandless who has been died of poison in Alaska.

Originally, McCandless's life is written by Jon Krakauer through an *outside*

magazine the edition of January 1993 along 9000 words. Jon Krakauer is interested to retrace McCandless's life, then creates a book, and publishes it in 1996. McCandless is young man who chooses to live freely and leaves his family by living in nature. It tells about his experience when his father was very disappointed that he could not be his father's hope, but Jon Krakauer chooses to be a writer and climber. He had an ambition like McCandless as well as a love for nature and the outdoors. He too spent some time in the wilderness alone and climbed mountains. Krakauer is quoted as saying about his own adventures that I got away with it. Chris didn't. That's the only difference.

"In trying to understand McCandless, I inevitably came to reflect on...the grip wilderness has on the American imagination, the allure highrisk activities hold for young men of a certain mind, [and] the complicated, highly charged bond that exists between fathers and sons." (http://www.jonkrakauer.com)

Into the wild will be a source of this research which concern on the character of Christopher Johnson McCandless. An educated young man who has achievement of the study. He does just not have the good ability in his study but also he has a good behavior, humble, idealistic, and he can think wisely. After his graduation from Emory University, McCandless who is in his young age, 22 years old, decides to leave his family and begins a life with his own way that is having an adventure in a free nature. With his new way of life, he left leaves about his wealthy sincerely.

McCandless bravery is fueled by family circumstances which full of falsehood, and also human life is too relying on material. In his new journey of life Chris met with many new friends and gets many worth experiences. He does all of that to seek the meaning of life and his freedom of life. Chris attitude is accordance to the concept of existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre

Sartre said "Existence precedes essence" (24). It explain that man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world and defines himself afterwards. So man is nothing else but that which he makes of himself. That is the mayor concept of existentialism.

Existentialism is a doctrine of real actions. Based on Sartre in Heter says that existentialism is both a clarification of human existence and an appeal to each of us to live this existence fully, openly, decidedly, and authentically (2). It means that existentialism encourage human to action through free will to construct and struggle for his existence.

Based on the explanation above, the research would analyse a novel *Into The Wild* by Jon Krakauer, which will focus on a character Christopher Johnson McCandless, a young man who chooses to live freely. The analysis in this novel will apply theory of existentialism as a main theory and a new criticism as a supporting theory which will explain character and characterization of Christopher Johnson McCandless.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of research will be formulated in two following questions:

1. How is Christopher Johnson McCandless described in novel *Into the Wild*?

2. How is Christopher JohnsonMcCandless show his existence described in novel *Into the Wild*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In the connection with the problems of statement above, the research aim to find out:

- 1. To description of Christopher Johnson McCandless's character in novel *Into the Wild*.
- 2.To know how he show his existencein novel *Into the Wild*.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

To get a focused discussion, the study will be limited to the novel written by Jon Krakauer entitled *Into the Wild*. The study focuses on the main character in the novel. To answer problem of statement above, McCandless character becomes the most important point to analyze. Therefore, the scope of this study is focusing on the novel in which McCandless choose to freedom. The existence of McCandless becomes the scope of this study.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give valuable contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it hopes that this study can be helpful for readers in order to understand the content of the novel Into the Wild, and how the existentialism theory is applies in this research. McCandless's freedom can also

give knowledge to the reader's life, especially for those who have an interest in studying and comprehending life through literature, and who crave freedom.

Practically, it hopes that this study can be used as reference, especially for students of English Literature in Islamic State University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya who analyze this novel or other novel by using existentialism theory. For literary scholars or other people who are mostly interest in literature, this research becomes a comparison for other researchers, although this can be debatable to be more perfect by using another existentialism theory with the difference experts. Since this study concern to someone who tries to escape from the pressures of life and choose to live freely, it is also hoped that this research will be helpful for common people to understand their existence in the world by being a unique person, brave to think differently and having freedom to decide choices through the life experience and Jean-Paul Sartre's life philosophy.

1.6 Method of Study

In conducting this research, there are some methods which are used. Those are research design, research data, data collecting and data analysis.

1. Research Design

To answer the first and second statement of the problem above, the research uses library research by using some books and other references like articles, journals, and websites relate to the subject that will be analyzed. This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods which explaining the result of

the analysis in the form of words and sentences since the result is not statistic or numeric data. Substantively it employ words to answer questions (Donal 420).

2. Source of Data

There are two sources of data, the primary data and the secondary. In this research, the source of primary data is come from the novel itself that is *Into the Wild*, written by Jon Krakauer, published in 1996 by Villard. Whereas, the secondary data is come from books, articles, journals, and websites that relate with the novel and explanation about existentialism theory.

3. Method of Collecting Data

Since the data becomes the most important part for conducting a research, so it must be collected effectively and completely. Method of data collection is one of the research methods parts that will explain how the data are collected to support the research. In collecting data for the research which based on the qualitative research method, the steps of data collection are:

- a. Preparing novel entitled Into the Wild as the main data
- b. Collecting the data from the novel by reading comprehensively and repeatedly to get a valid data
- c. Selecting the reference that is related to novel that can support the research data
- 4. Method of Data Analysis

The data in this research is written text come from a novel, the data that have been collected will be analyzed using the theory of literature. The analysis data will involve some steps, those are:

- a. Collecting and selecting the narration and conversation of the novel that are related to the problems of study.
 - b. Classifying the data based on the objectives of study.
- c. Analyzing the collected data based on the theory and concept in theoretical framework.
 - d. Drawing conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

Freedom

: It is thus not limited to a specific "faculty" of the will; rather, it is a general power of choice and self-determination, evident in a range of behaviors and actions that lends existence its human character (Michelman 183).

Responsibility

: A condition that relates an agent to actions `of, and consequences connected to, that agent, and is always necessary and sometimes sufficient for the appropriateness of certain kinds of appraisals of that agent (Robert 794).

Self-Reliance

: Intelligent, imaginative independence, freedom whereby one has the courage, enthusiasm to think, to

express one's own thoughts, ideas and dreams (Emerson 134)

Falsehood

: True lie or lie in the soul, believing wrongly about the most important things in one's life (Ancient History Encyclopedia)

