

ANALYSIS

The appearance of some travel literature novels shows the author's desires to criticize reality of existence in a certain problems. *Into the Wild* is one of the novels which contains reviews of those philosophical values. This chapter will intend to analyze the characterization of a major character, Christopher Johnson McCandless. Then, it gives about McCandless' view of life. Finally, to be closed, it uses theory existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre to analyze the existence values of him, such as freedom and responsibility.

There are two different approaches to characterization; they are direct characterization and indirect characterization. With direct characterization the author tells the readers about the character. Meanwhile in indirect

3.1.1 Direct Characterization

A. Intelligence

Academically, at third grade school McCandless is a high achiever. McCandless has acceleration class because he gets an excellent rate. Meanwhile at junior high school McCandless only once did he receive a grade lower than B. Then at senior high school, at W. T. Woodson High School—a large public institution in Fairfax, Virginia, with a reputation for high academic standards and winning athletic teams, McCandless is the captain of the crosscountry squad.

In May 1990, Chris graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, where he'd been a columnist for, and editor of, the student newspaper, The Emory Wheel, and

Paragraph above tells us that Chris donates all the money in his college funds to Oxfam America, a charity dedicated to fighting hunger. Meanwhile also explains to us that Chris's donating means he pays attention to the problems which are experienced by others, such as the famine. So paragraph above affirm us about the social conscience character that Chris has.

A. Intelligence

Therefore Carine's character describes to us that Chris has an intelligent character.

Other characters think that McCandless has a social conscience character is coming from his friend, Hawthay. During senior high school, Hawthay

claims that Mccandless has overdeveloped social conscience. Meanwhile

Hathaway's statement that supports Chris social conscience's character can be seen in the statement below:

“It was a Friday night, and I assumed we were headed to Georgetown to party. Instead, Chris parked down on Fourteenth Street, which at the time was a real bad part of town. Then he said, ‘You know, you can read about this stuff, but you can’t understand it until you live it. Tonight that’s what we’re going to do.’ We spent the next few hours hanging out in creepy places, talking with pimps and hookers and lowlife. I was, like, scared.” Toward the end of the evening, Chris asked me how much money I had. I said five dollars. He had ten. ‘OK, you buy the gas,’ he told me; ‘I’m going to get some food.’ So he spent the ten bucks on a big bag of hamburgers, and we drove around handing them out to smelly guys sleeping on grates. It was the weirdest Friday night of my life. But Chris did that kind of thing a lot.” (79)

Hathaway's statement above tell us that Chris chooses go to the place where some of pimps, prostitutes and lowly people gathered and talked with them than go to the party with his friends in senior high school in Georgetown.

Hathaway also tell us that Chris ever invited her to buy a hamburger with his money and then he distributed to homeless people on the roadside. Hathaway said that Chris did it many times. So through other character Hathaway, she affirm to us that Chris has overdeveloped social conscience character.

Meanwhile Carine also explains to us that Chris has social conscience character. Carine, Chris's sister claims that Chris social conscience's character show through loving her. Carine claims that his brother very loves her. Then Carine's statement that supports Chris social conscience's character can be seen in the statement below:

“He was always really nice to me,” Carine says, “and extremely protective. He’d hold my hand when we walked down the street. When he was in junior high and I

"Chris, the teenage Tolstoyan, believed that wealth was shameful, corrupting, inherently evil—which is ironic because Chris was a natural-born capitalist with an uncanny knack for making a buck." (80)

Billie's statement above affirms to us that Chris is the man figure who believes that wealth is shameful where the wealth will cause chaos and bad behavior. By having dream as a rich man, someone can oppress and deceive each other in order to reach the aims. Since a man idolizes money so the humanity is less.

Besides, the statement above also tells us that his mother, Billie believes that his son is Tolstoyan or Leo Tolstoy's fellow where Leo Tolstoy's life is far from wealth. He leaves wealth and chooses simple life. It is started when Leo was in Kazan University for studying language and law, but he is getting bored so he decides to get out of the collage. Although he decides to get out of the collage, he still knows and understands the diverging life practices. A nobleman who lives in luxury life, it does not get wealth in the right way. When Leo Tolstoy passes his study, he then goes around and wanders the West Europe. His hearth nauseates toward west civilization and materialism in bourgeois society. Leo Tolstoy's decision which passes his life by leaving wealth and life in simple way becomes the inspiration for many people. Hence Billie calls his son; Chris is one of Leo Tolstoy's fellow that feels ashamed by either wealth or materialism in a life.

D. Independent

His mother, Billie is other character that says Chris is independent character. Billie says to us that Chris' independence begins when Chris was child. Billie says that here is this cute little boy pulling a wagon full of fresh-grown beans and tomatoes and peppers, who could resist? And Chris knows it. He'd have this look

on his face like I'm damn cute! Want to buy some beans? By the time he comes home, the wagon would be empty, and he'd have a bunch of money in his hand.

Then Billie also explain to us that Chris grew vegetables behind his house in Annandale and then sold it door-to-door around the neighborhood when Chris was eight-year-old. Meanwhile Chris print up a stack of flyers and start a neighborhood copy business named as Chris's Fast Copies, offering free pickup and delivery. Using the copier in Walt and Billie s office, he paid his parents a few cents a copy, charged customers two cents less than the corner store charged, and made a tidy profit when Chris was twelve years old. So, we know that Chris is independent character.

3.1.2 Indirect Characterization

1. McCandless's action

Chris's idealist character also presents through his action. It can be seen, after Chris graduated from Emory University. Chris leaves all the wealth and luxuries in his life. Chris leaves home and family. It can be seen in paragraph below:

By then Chris was long gone.... At long last he was unencumbered, emancipated from the stifling world of his parents and peers, a world of abstraction and security and material excess, a world in which he felt grievously cut off from the raw throb of existence. Driving west out of Atlanta, he intended to invent an utterly new life for himself, one in which he would be free to wallow in unfiltered experience. (18)

Paragraph above tells us that after passing or graduating his study for about four years, Chris then leaves all elements of his life that are judged as blocking his

existence in passing of life. Christ then leaves his home everything. He is meant to create a new real life for himself where he will be free to mourn without filtering experience. Meanwhile other statement that supports Chris idealist's character can be seen in the paragraph below:

He saw the flash flood as an opportunity to shed unnecessary baggage. He concealed the car as best he could beneath a brown tarp, stripped it of its Virginia plates, and hid them. He buried his Winchester deer-hunting rifle and a few other possessions that he might one day want to recover. Then, in a gesture that would have done both Thoreau and Tolstoy proud, he arranged all his paper currency in a pile on the sand—a pathetic little stack of ones and fives and twenties—and put a match to it. One hundred twenty-three dollars in legal tender was promptly reduced to ash and smoke.⁽²¹⁾

From paragraph above, it can be explained in his action, Chris also leaves his car and slop out the contents of the baggage. Chris also leaves everything whichstill stick him, such as buryingthe account card etc that are in his wallet. Chris also burns the money in hiswallet. Subsequently, Chris wanders alone with a backpack on his back and goes to the wild. So, through Chris' action we know that he has an idealist character.

2. McCandless's speech

Chris's idealist character is also presented through the McCandles's speech. In his wandering, Chris meets another wanderer; the wanderer is a hippie couple. The sweet couple tells that they also have a son as Chris's age. Then, Chris's figure can remind them of their son. With the friendly nature of Chris, quickly they are enamored by Chris. Intimately, they are talking to each other. In their conversation

the sweet couple asks to Chris about why he does it all. Then, Chris answers by using Henry David Thoreau's quotation; we can see the quotation below:

“Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth. I sat at a table where rich food and wine in abundance, an obsequious attendance, were but sincerity and truth were not; and I went away hungry from the inhospitable board. The hospitality was as cold as the ices.” (82)

Chris's words above tells us that life is sincere life and full of the truth. The meaning is life is what it is. It is Friendly and simple life, and the real life. Life is unreal life that is filled with luxury and materialism. So we know that Chris' speech indicates him an idealist young man.

3. McCandless's thought

After explaining the idealistic character of Chris's actions and speeches, the other characters such as independence also presents through Chris's thoughts. The thought is told to someone else who meets him in his wanderings. Ronz Franz, he is the person who meets with Chris, he is a retired military that is looked like someone lose way when he lose his family. He lose his wife and son who passing away in the crash. Ronz said that Chris is a figure that is still young. He should have a high school and good career.

However, because of the friendly of Chris, then Ronz is enamored by Chris quickly. Then, Ronz tries to adopt Chris but Chris refuses him. Chris promises if he will send a letter to Ronz everywhere he is. After leaving Ronz, Chris continues his wandering, Chris keeps his promise to send a letter to Ronz. In that letter, Chris says that Ronz should revolutionize his life to get more life. It is explained in statement below:

“So many people live within unhappy circumstances and yet will not take the initiative to change their situation because they are conditioned to a life of security, conformity, and conservatism, all of which may appear to give one peace of mind, but in reality nothing is more damaging to the adventurous spirit within a man than a secure future. The very basic core of a man’s living spirit is his passion for adventure. The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun. If you want to get more out of life, Ron, you must lose your inclination for monotonous security and adopt a helter-skelter style of life that will at first appear to you to be crazy. You are still going to live a long time, Ron, and it would be a shame if you did not take the opportunity to revolutionize your life and move into an entirely new realm of experience. My point is that you do not need me or anyone else around to bring this new kind of light in your life. It is simply waiting out there for you to grasp it, and all you have to do is reach for it. The only person you are fighting is yourself and your stubbornness to engage in new circumstances.”

Statement above tells us that Chris wants Ronz to revolutionize his life. It shows that to through this life, someone who has the courage to fight a life of security because the very basiccore of the man's living spirit is the secure future. So, to take anopportunity to life to revolutionand move to a whole new world of experience. Therefore, someone will become accustomed to relying on anything forhimself and independent because the only one who are struggling is ourself. So,for that future, someone will enjoy his life with a better life due to those experiences. Through McCandless's thought, we know that he affirm to us about experience life with out of security zone and accustomed to relying on anything for himself and independent life.

3.2 Christopher Johnson McCandless' Existentialism

Based on existentialism theory by Jean Paul Sartre previously, he says that man is condemned to be free. Condemned, because he did not create himself, yet is nevertheless at liberty, and from the moment that he is thrown into this world he

is responsible for everything he does (Sartre 16). Sartre's statement explains to us that every human gets freedom to create a life through a choice and action independently. Yet every human is demanded to responsible for everything he does. Meanwhile on the analysis below, it will explain about the existence of the main character in novel *Into the Wild*, Christopher Johnson McCandless. It is about his freedom and responsibility. Both of them will accompany him to find self-identity on his life, before in the end of his life tragically.

3.2.1 Christopher Johnson McCandless's Freedom

Christ's freedom is started when he was in senior high school at W. T. Woodson High School—a large public institution in Fairfax, Virginia. He is obsessed with racial suppression and injustice in South Africa. He talks about gunrunning in that country with his friends seriously. His mother, Billie says that his son is fond of that thing. Christ hardly thinks about how people are allowed to be famine, in particularly this country.

Basically, freedom is life without hypocrisy and falseness. Meanwhile, after passing from Emory University, Christ's family celebrates graduation party. His parents suggest him to continue his school to reach the satisfying career. His mother, Billie gives him the gift such luxury car in which will be used while his father gives Christ a lot of money. Those are the strategy from his parents that they want him to reach satisfying career in his life.

However, Christ feels ashamed toward his own wealth. He assumes that both of his parents are full of hypocrisy and falseness of life. Thus, it can make Christ realizes that life in which experienced is full hypocrisy and falseness. Besides, his

mother, Billie assumes that his son is bashfulness toward his family's wealth which is inspired by Leo Tolstoy, the figure novel of his reading. Chris is Tolstoyan or Leo Tolstoyan's fellow. It is asserted by Billie. Billie's statement shows that Christ is Tolstoyan or Leo Tolstoyan's fellow; it can be seen as below:

"Chris, the teenage Tolstoyan, believed that wealth was shameful, corrupting, inherently evil—which is ironic because Chris was a natural-born capitalist with an uncanny knack for making a buck." (80)

Billie's statement above tells us that Christ is a young man that believes that wealth is shameful where the wealth will cause chaos and bad behavior. By having dream as a rich man, someone can oppress and deceive each other in order to reach the aims. Since a man idolizes money so the humanity is less. Besides, the statement above also tells us that his mother, Billie believes that his son is Tolstoyan or Leo Tolstoy's fellow where Leo Tolstoy's life is far from wealth. He leaves wealth and chooses simple life. It is started when Leo was in Kazan University for studying language and law, but he is getting bored so he decides to get out of the collage. Although he decides to get out of the collage, he still knows and understands the diverging life practices. A nobleman who lives in luxury life, it does not get wealth in the right way. When Leo Tolstoy passes his study, he then goes around and roams the West Europe. His hearth nauseates toward west civilization and materialism in bourgeois society. Leo's decision which passes his life by leaving wealth and life in simple way becomes the inspiration for many people. Hence, his mother, Billie calls his son; Chris is one o Leo Tolstoy's fellow that feels ashamed by either wealth or materialism in a life.

Therefore, Chris wants that life without falseness. He also wants to pass life as simple life and be own master. Christ's desire is existed through the life that is not rich such simple life, without money, and also without luxurious facilities.

3.2.2 Christopher Johnson McCandless's Responsibility

Responsible toward the Chris's choices that chooses free life without money and luxurious facilities are existed through some kind of things. The first thing is drawn that Chris leaves his home. The second thing is captured that Christ changes his name. The third thing is seen that Chris burns his money in his wallet. The forth thing is known that Chris passes life by wandering in to the wild.

Chris leaving home is one of the responsible things toward his choice. Chris chooses to pass free life, to be own master without money, luxury. Thus, Chris leaves his home. His home is the symbol falseness of life where it is the second place of his parents which is full of luxurious facilities and there are many rules that they made for his son, Chris. Meanwhile statement that supports Chris leaves his home, it can be proved in:

“By then Chris was long gone. Five weeks earlier he’d loaded all his belongings into his little car and headed west without an itinerary. The trip was to be an odyssey in the fullest sense of the word, an epic journey that would change everything. He had spent the previous four years, as he saw it, preparing to fulfill an absurd and onerous duty: to graduate from college. At long last he was unencumbered, emancipated from the stifling world of his parents and peers, a world of abstraction and security and material excess, a world in which he felt grievously cut off from the raw throb of existence. Driving west out of Atlanta, he intended to invent an utterly new life for himself, one in which he would be free to wallow in unfiltered experience. (18)

Statement above tells us that after passing or graduating his study for about four years, Chris realizes that his life is full of falseness. Hence, Chris then leaves

all elements of his life that are judged as blocking his existence in passing of life.

Chris then leaves his home everything. He is meant to create a new real life for himself where he will be free to mourn without filtering experience. So Chris decides to leave all of security zone that all of them exist in house.

The second responsible thing of Chris is changes his name. After leaving his home, Christ further decides to change his name. It is his responsible thing toward life choice. Christ choose to pass a life that totally free. Statement that supports Chris changes his name, it can be proved below:

To symbolize the complete severance from his previous life, he even adopted a new name. No longer would he answer to Chris McCandless; he was now Alexander Super-tramp, master of his own destiny. (18)

Statement above tells us that after leaving house, Chris change his name to be Alexander Super-Tramp. The name explains that it symbolizes the new of his life. His life is free life and to be own master. The meaning of his name is that Chris now becomes a man who choose vagabond.

Furthermore, the third responsible thing that is described that Christ burns his money in his wallet. Christ chooses to pass that totally free. Meanwhile paragraph shows that Christ burns his money, it can be proved below:

One hundred twenty-three dollars in legal tender was promptly reduced to ash and smoke. We know all of this because McCandless documented the burning of his money and most of the events that followed in a journal-snapshot album he would later leave with Wayne Westerberg for safekeeping before departing for Alaska.(22)

Paragraph above tells us that Chris burns one hundred twenty-three dollars is promptly reduced to ash and smoke. Chris does it before departing to Alaska. So this thing explains to us that he really responsible to his self.

The forth thing is known that Chris passes life by wandering in to the wild. He chooses a free and independent life so he decides adventure to Alaska. Chris's Statement that supports his adventure into the wild explains below:

Two Years He Walks The Earth.No Phone,No Pool, No Pets, No Cigarettes.
Ultimate Freedom.An Extremist.Anaesthetic Voyager Whose Home Is The
Road.Escaped From Atlanta.ThouShalt Not Return, 'Cause "The West Is The
Best. "And Now After Two Rambling Years Comes The Final And Greatest
Adventure.The Climactic Battle To Kill The False Being Within And Victoriously
Conclude The Spiritual Revolution.Ten Days And Nights Of Freight Trains And
Hitchhiking Bring Him To The Great White North.No Longer To Be Poisoned By
Civilization He Flees,And Walks Alone Upon The Land To Become Lost In The
Wild. (112)

Chris's statement above tell us that Chris decide make an adventure to Alaska. Live in to the wild is his chosen as a form his responsibility about his wish to living free and independent. Chris wishes that living in Alaska is a way to realize the real life, life without lying. He also wishes by living in Alaska he become independent person, without depend on other people. So that Chris decides to live into the wild. This thing support by Chris' statement below:

wished to acquire the simplicity, native feelings, and virtues of savage life; to divest myself of the factitious habits, prejudices and imperfections of civilization; ... and to find, amidst the solitude and grandeur of the western wilds, more correct views of human nature and of the true interests of man. The season of snows was preferred, that I might experience the pleasure of suffering, and the novelty of danger. (108)

Chris' statement above tells us about Chris wishes, he wishes have a real life, not fake life. His goal from his adventure by live in to the wild are simple life, real feeling, and make him free from fake tradition, pre conception and imperfectly era.

3.2.3 Finding self-identity in Alaska

Alaska is the goal of Chris' wandering. Chris chooses Alaska because he wants to live freely in nature and independently; free from fake tradition, preconception and imperfectly era. Although his background is educated a young man from rich family and success in academically, but it starts to feel disgust toward his view as meaningless materialism of society.

After chooses live wandering, finally Chris arrives in Alaska. Chris begins life with hunting and assembling. Meanwhile paragraph t that supports Chris' life in Alaska can be seen in paragraph below:

McCandless wrote a list of housekeeping chores on aparchmentlike strip of birch bark: collect and store ice from the river for refrigerating meat, cover the vehicle's missing windows with plastic, lay in a supply of firewood, clean the accumulation of old ash from the stove. And under the heading "Long Term" he drew up a list of more ambitious tasks: map the area, improvise a bathtub, collect skins and feathers to sew into clothing, construct a bridge across a nearby creek, repair mess kit, blaze a network of hunting trails. (113-114)

From paragraph above Chris describes to us that he experiences life with hunting and assembling in Alaska. Chris also explains to us about writing a list of housekeeping. It is like collect and store ice from the river for refrigerating meat, supply of firewood, and under the heading “Long Term” he drew up a list of more ambitious tasks: map the area, collect skins and feathers to sew into clothing, construct a bridge across a nearby creek, repair mess kit, blaze a network of hunting trails. So Chris’ schedule describes to us that he really enjoy about a moment he has.

At Alaska Chris become an independence man. He relies on nature and his ability. There are animals to hunt and plants to assemble. Chris enjoy about his

On July, McCandless finished reading Tolstoys “Family Happiness,” having marked several passages that moved him: He was right in saying that the only certain happiness in life is to live for others.... I have lived through much, and now

I think I have found what is needed for happiness. A quiet secluded life in the country, with the possibility of being useful to people to whom it is easy to do good, and who are not accustomed to have it done to them; then work which one hopes maybe of some use; then rest, nature, books, music, love for one's neighbor—such is my idea of happiness. And then, on top of all that, you for a mate, and children, perhaps—what more can the heart of a man desire? (116)

Paragraph above tells us about the content of Chris' reading, "Family Happiness". It explains to us that happiness in life is to live for others. So it makes Chris to decide back to civilization because he claims that he have lived through much. It is a happy life, freedom and independence.

Meanwhile Chris walks out of the wild, he is blocked by river flow. It makes Chris can not pass away and then he decides to back to the wild, Alaska. It is supported by his statement. Chris says “Disaster.... Rained in. River look impossible. Lonely, scared.” (117) He concludes, correctly, that he would probably be swept to his death if he attempts to cross the Teklanika at that place, in those conditions. It would be suicidal, it is simply not an option.

After Chris decides to experience life in Alaska, nevertheless both of hunting and assembling is not same as before. Alex gets foods difficulty now. Evenmore Alex makes a declaration about a day famine. Meanwhile statement that supports Chris' famine can seen in paragraph below:

Reality, however, was quick to intrude on McCandless's reverie. He had difficulty killing game, and the daily journal entries during his first week in the bush include "Weakness," "Snowed in," and "Disaster." He saw but did not shoot a grizzly on May 2, shot at but missed some ducks on May 4, and finally killed and ate a spruce grouse on May 5; but he didn't shoot anything else until May 9, when he bagged a single small squirrel, by which point he'd written "4th day famine""Extremly Weak. Fault Of Pot. Seed. Much Trouble Just To Stand Up. Starving. Great Jeopardy."(112)

Statement above explains to us that Alex feels a famine. Statement above also explains that he gets a famine four days. It is caused by animals and plants in nature which they are difficult to hunt. Then it makes Chris become a weak. So statement above explains to us that Alaska is different from before because Chris feels a difficulty to hunt now. Alaska makes Chris' famine.

During a condition when Chris is hungry and weak, He gets a disaster. It is caused by a poison plant. A disaster begins when he is hungry and weak, at that time he tries to find a food in around him, but he wrongs to eat a poison plant. Meanwhile statement that support Chris' poisoned can be seen in paragraph below:

... late July had grown hungry enough to eat these seeds, which poisoned him. Potato seeds are in fact mildly toxic after they've begun to sprout. They contain solanine, a poison that occurs in plants of the nightshade family, which causes vomiting, diarrhea, headache, and lethargy in the short term, and adversely affects heart rate and blood pressure when ingested over an extended period. This theory has a serious flaw, however: In order for McCandless to have been incapacitated by potato seeds, he would have had to eat many, many pounds of them; and given the light weight of his pack when his friend dropped him off, it is extremely unlikely that he carried more than a few grams of potato seeds, if he carried any at all. (130)

Paragraph above explain to us that Chris eats a poison plant. Paragraph above also describes that a poison plant is like a potato plant. A poison plant then has bad effect to him, which causes vomiting, diarrhea, headache, and lethargy in the short term, and adversely affects heart rate and blood pressure when ingested over an extended period. So, paragraph above explains to us that Chris' condition is so anxious now because he gets a poison.

Although Chris' condition is so anxious but he explains about a happiness life in the wild, Alaska. Chris' happiness explains on his declaration about 100

days on the wild Alaska. He says “Day 100! Made It! But in weakest condition of life. Death looms as serious threat. Too weak to walk out, have literally become trapped in the wild.—No Game.” (134)

