

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature generally reflects life which capture and interpret what has happened and is happening to people personally and to the world as a whole. With literature we can see human nature through tragedy and romance, joy and sorrow, in approval and denial, in moments of heroism and in moments of cowardice. Literary texts are supposed to be ideological in the sense that they cannot give us knowledge of the social formation; but they do give us something of equal importance in analyzing culture, an imaginary representation of real relations (Eagleton and Milne 392). In other words literary works represent human real life and social reality. There are a lot of occurrences as outlined by the author into a literary work.

Literary work frequently seizes the pictures of society and depicts significant features about tradition, history, social anthropology, and political science in every period. Records of the traditional events are often supported with description about individual, family, or social behavior though society. Every period has specific features about family tradition principles influenced by society (Jana 1). Furthermore, family tradition is daily activities that are done repeatedly in a family. In the traditions there are usually magic, spirit, and texture to our everyday lives. Traditions and rituals often tell a story about a family; it can teach children where their family came from or give them insights into their cultural or religious history, it plays an important role in

shaping a child's personal identity (Cox 17). In the formatting of child's character, traditions often limit a child; sometimes the child has no other choice and must follow what has become a tradition in the family. In some cases, tradition control child's life, with whom they should be friends, whom they should marry, at what age they should get married, etc. The tradition that limited children's or people choice, means that it restricts their freedom. They cannot get their existence.

Existentialist thought that individuals are always free to make choices and guide their lives towards their lives towards their own chosen goal or project. The claim holds that individuals cannot escape this freedom, even in overwhelming circumstances (Aronson 44). Moreover, people cannot escape responsibility by adopting an external moral system, as the adoption of such is in itself a choice that people endorse, implicitly or explicitly, for which people must take full responsibility. People cannot discharge this responsibility, as each attempt to part one's self from the freedom of choice is in itself a demonstration of choice and choice is dependent on a person's wills and desires (Sartre 46). It means that existentialism is not only about freedom of choices, but there are always responsibilities that people will get following their choices.

More than any other recent philosophical movement, the existentialists communicated their ideas through plays, novels and short stories (Rickman 3). Like another field of study, literature also has its main function as knowledge. Nevertheless, the writer doesn't discuss existentialism in all type of literary

works. In this study, the writer will discuss about existentialism depicted in the novel as one of literary works that will be analyzed.

The novel is a fantasy novel by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, which is *Beautiful Creatures*. Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl are some of modern authors that wrote fantasy novel. Both Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl are the number one of *New York Times*, *USA Today Publisher Weekly*, *LA Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Indiebound* & International bestselling collaborate authors of the Beautiful Creatures Series; *Beautiful Creatures*, *Beautiful Darkness*, *Beautiful Chaos* & *Beautiful Redemption* (Peres 4). The writer chose *Beautiful Creatures* as research subject because in this series, the writer found more sources that related with Lena Duchannes' existent than in the other series. Moreover, in *Beautiful Creatures* the story focuses to Lena Duchannes' decision to claim by herself. Meanwhile, in *Beautiful Darkness*, the story focuses on Ethan Wate and then *Beautiful Chaos* & *Beautiful Redemption* focus on the effect after Lena Duchannes' claimed.

*Beautiful Creatures* sets in the small town of Gatlin, South Carolina. The story begins with Ethan Wate, a teenager who lives with his father and their housekeeper Amma. Ethan has been dreaming of a girl. In the dream, he's trying to save her but she slips away from him. In another day, there is a new student, her name is Lena and she's the niece of an eccentric recluse, Macon Ravenwood. When Ethan sees Lena, he recognizes her as the girls from his dreams. Lena is not acceptable by other girls who have a very tight clique and refuse to admit outsiders.

Lena reveals to Ethan that she and all of her family members are Caster that different with ordinary human. Lena tells that she'll be "Claimed" on her sixteenth birthday, and that she has no choice in whether she'll become Light or Dark Caster. She wants to be Light one, but she still worry if she will be the Dark one.

Lena and Ethan fall in love each other. But Lena's family doesn't like Ethan and they told him to stay away from Lena. Apparently, a Caster is not destined to be together with a Mortal or ordinary human. If a Caster has a relationship with a Mortal, the consequent is one of them should die. A Caster who has a relationship with a Mortal becomes a Dark Caster and become a different person entirely without the capability to love anyone. On the night of Claiming, Lena's is upset that she hasn't had time to think through the situation armed with the full knowledge and she blocks out the moon – a vital part in the Claiming ceremony. Finally she chooses to claime herself to become half Light half Dark and leaving Ethan along with their relationship.

Through reading the novel, the writer recognizes that there is much of existential case that can be analysed. Lena Duchannes' choice of her own life looks interesting enough to discuss. The tradition from her family cannot change her decision for rise her identity. She decides herself what she has to do even though she had to sacrifice her family tradition that literally so hard for her. Moreover, writer also will analyze the character and characterization to know more detail about the reason of Lena in picking her choice.



#### 1.4 Scope and Limitation

In order to prevent non-relevant problems, the study will be limited to the novel *Beautiful Creatures*. The study then focuses on Lena's decision and her existence to do something different from Caster's tradition in general. To answer statement of the problem stated above, Lena Duchannes' choice though her life becomes the most important point to analyze. However, some other characters that Lena interacts with will be also the object for analysis but the study will be limited to Lena Duchannes' family. The scope of this study is upon Lena Duchannes' existence and her decision to choose something different from Caster's tradition.

#### 1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant to be conducted due to both theoretical and practical function. Theoretically, the writer hopes that the research will enriches the readers' development of knowledge in the literary theory that is related the study of existentialism. Therefore, the readers are expected to comprehend more about it, especially for those who are having interest in the study of freedom of choice throughout literature.

Practically, this study hopefully can give useful contribution for the readers in understanding the content of *Beautiful Creatures* novel, mainly concerning with critical analysis using theory related to freedom of choice for the approach. The writer hopes that this research can be a helpful reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting further research. Moreover,



