CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature has unlimited meanings. It can be globally defined as written work which is created aesthetically which contains an exact sense of the word. Literary work is written works which are imaginative and distinguished by either the intentions or the aesthetic or artistic side of the authors to make it different with other daily readings. Therefore, many people think that literary works just an imaginative word that explosively expressed (Klarer 1). Whereas, actually literary works is not just an imaginative word that exist but also there are some aesthetic perspective from real human life which represent inside the character or the plot of the story.

Literary work as the product of author's thought grows faster nowadays. It has developed around the world. The existence of literary work can be seen in every part of the world. The existence of literary works or literature itself, combine a factual writing and a lot of fiction (Eagleton,2). Human tend to be exist in his own way. Every human has his own human rights to do something to show his existence. Even in literary work, there are characters which lead the think about Existentialism. Existentialism is a philosophy of living life as an active, aware, and authentic individual as an effort to look for the truth subjectivity (Solomon 4). The condition of how

human life usually has a close relation with his obsession to show his existentialism. In *psychoanalysis* 1925, Sigmund Freud states that obsessional syndrome is a mad disease when human do not really pay attention to his nonsensical practices and human tend to bring himself to believe that what he want is actually right

Obsession as existentialism happen when human trying really hard to show his willing to everyone and that what he think is right. Here, in Frankenstein novel. In order to showing his existentialism, obsession is the main cause which makes his life process change. And his character become someone different from what he used to be before.

In general, Existentialism focuses on concrete experience, but the experience has various meanings. Some of existentialist figures show that experience could come from many ways. There are four figures in existentialism, such as Soren Kierkegaard (religious existentialism), Jean Paul – Sartre, Friedrich Nietzche (will to power), Albert Camus (absurdist existentialism). In this case, the issues to be discussed will be using religious existentialism from Soren Kierkegaard. Existentialism not only conceives man himself to be but also he is what he will and he should renew himself after he exist (Sartre, 49). Soren Kierkegaard who has been known as the founding father of existentialism states that there are three stages on human life's ways, those are aesthetic, ethical and religious (Solomon, 87). In Literary work, Existentialism can be found on the character's experience.

Based on the explanation above and to explain how existentialism theory works on literary work, therefore this analysis would analyze a novel *Frankeinstein* by Marry Shelley which will focus on the main character Victor Frankenstein, an ambitious man who want to create a creature with his knowledge. as the existentialism theory, this analysis will apply the theory of existentialism stages by Soren Kierkegaard which contains of Aesthetic, Ethic and Religious as the main theory and New Criticism as the supporting theory. Soren Kierkegaard was the founding father of existentialism believes that there is no moral standard which limit oneself to be a being, faith is an important basis for making choices, because only on the basis of faith does an individual have a chance to become a true self (Solomon 13). Kierkegaard argues that there are three stages on the way how human's life. Those are aesthetic, ethics, and religious.

Frankenstein is Marry Shelley's most famous novel. Marry Shelley is classic novelist who was born on 1797. Original Frankenstein novel is a novel about an obsessed scientist named Victor Frankenstein who has a big obsession to combine his knowledge of science and supernatural side of life in order to discover a new walking dead creature. His obsession leads him to meet the creature which he called as a 'monster'. After all made and set, Victor suddenly feels afraid of his new discovery. He leave that 'monster' in a hidden part of his apartment with his fear about the physical appearance of the monster even Victor getting sick of thinking about the monster. Unfortunately,

the monster woken up and experienced some bad moment in society by his bad appearance and it is because Victor creates him like that. And the story continued with the death of Victor's family. Some of Victor's family died because the monster killed them as revenge to Victor. In the middle of the story, point of view inside the novel change to the monster point of view, here as a reader, I may conclude that the monster hates Victor because Victor creates him in a terrible physical appearance. Unfortunately, Victor cannot do anything but being terrorized by the monster. The ending of the novel is not really clearing the problem, the monster succeeded to make Victor psychologically suffered while Victor itself always want to catch monster and kill it but unfortunately he died on his way to catch the monster.

The reason why the writer chooses the title is because this analysis would like to explore further about Existentialism especially for Kierkegaard's Existentialism Stages which is represented by the character Victor Frankenstein inside the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. While, the reason why this analysis aims at it novel is because, in my opinion the character of the novel fulfill all of the three stages (aesthetics, ethics and religion) from Soren Aabye Kierkegraargd's opinion about Existentialism. Besides, the character of Victor Frankenstein is challenging to analyze it from Existentialism point of View.

The main issue of this analysis focuses on how the obsession of Victor Frankenstein will lead him into his life process. And that life process of Victor

Frankenstein will help to show his existentialism which is in this analysis, it is portrayed by using Soren kierkegraard's existentialism that contain of three stages (Ethical, Aestethical, and Religious).

1.2 Statement of Probem

This Analysis focuses on three existentialism stages (Aesthetic, Ethic and Religious) of Victor Frankenstein's Life. Therefore, This analysis following by these statements of problem:

- a. How is Victor Frankenstein characterized in Frankenstein's novel?
- b. How is the process of Victor Frankenstein's life viewed from Kierkergaard's existentialism stages?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research problem above, the objectives of the study are:

- To describe how the character of Victor Frankenstein characterized in Frankenstein novel
- To describe Victor Frankenstein's life from Kierkergaard's existentialism stages

1.4 Significance of the Study

This analysis is expected to give a good contribution for readers theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this analysis will help reader to

understand the content of *Frankenstein* novel and existentialism theory especially existentialism stages by Soren Kierkergaard.

And practically, as an English literature thesis, this analysis can be one of the references for English literature Student. And this analysis can be a contribution for the development of existentialism study especially for Soren Kierkegaard's Existentialism. In analysing existentialism theory, many of the literary analysts prefer analyses using Sartre's theory rather to Kierkegaard's. Therefore, this study will help as a reference for someone who wants to explore Kierkegaard's existentialism and to understand more about Kierkegaard's existentialism.

Moreover as an additional significance, readers will realize the fact that a fiction can be used to represent the serious idea about stages of existentialism as Kierkegaard does.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope focus of this study is about Victor Frankenstein's obsession to discover a new creature which unfortunately did not works as what he thoughts. And Victor Frankenstein obsession lead him into three stages of Existentialism life, therefore the writer describe the process of Victor Frankenstein's life through Soren's religion existentialism. Because it is focused on Victor's obsession, this analysis also includes Victor

Frankenstein's characterization analysis as the process of how the obsessions of Victor begin.

This research limitation is on characterization analysis. Because not of all Victor Frankenstein's characterization is needed. The writer only focuses on Victor's character which related to his process of leading his obsession to discover a new creature. This analysis won't explain clearly about Victor's all characterization because it is focused on the obsession of Victor Frankenstein.

1.6 Method of the Study

In conducting this research into one related research, there are some methods which are used. research design, source of the study and method of the study.

1.6.1 Research Design

To answer the research question rearding the theory above, this research use library based research such as reading the other reference, reading the book about related theory and understanding the whole content of the novel.

1.6.2 Method to Collecting Data

This study will use qualitative descriptive method and existentialism theory and taken by this following steps:

- a. Reading the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- b. Understanding the important content inside the novel

- c. Collect the evidence based on the issue
- d. Classifying the evidence which is included as the answer of the issue
- e. Dividing the data in some stages (aesthetics, ethics and religious)
- f. Concluding result of the analysis

1.6.3 Source of the Study

The source of the study will contain of Frankenstein novel, some of literary theory books, and some thesis as a reference. As an additional, the source of the study needs a biography of the writer, therefore an online biography website is needed as a source.

1.7 Definition of Keyterm

Obsession: according to Merriam Webster, obsession is an unreasonable idea or feeling or concern which sometimes has a persistent effect and it can be a persistent disturbing preoccupation