

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 Nietzsche (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 *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley which will focus on the main character Victor Frankenstein, an ambitious man who wants to create a creature with his knowledge. As the existentialism theory, this analysis will apply the theory of existentialism stages by Søren Kierkegaard which contains of Aesthetic, Ethic and Religious as the main theory and New Criticism as the supporting theory. Søren Kierkegaard was the founding father of existentialism believes that there is no moral standard which limits 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 Mary Shelley's most famous novel. Mary Shelley is a classic novelist who was born in 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 leaves 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 Kierkegaard'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

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

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

