CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

One of written works of expression is called literature. Klarer, in his book *Introduction to Literature*, states that literature can be interpreted as an expression that is formed in writing form. R.J. Rees also has the similar opinion about it. He argues that literature is defined as permanent expression of some thought, feeling, or idea about life and the world that are put in words (9). Certainly, it cannot be denied that people have conveyed the thought and expressed the idea through literature long time ago.

There are some kinds of literature, such as drama, poetry, and prose, including novel and short story. Mostly, both of them consist of characterization and plot but they can be distinguished by looking at the work. The form of short story is permitted to have a smaller development of milieu, a smaller variety complication of plot, a smaller variety of characters, and less sustained exploration of characters and motivates, and less focused style than novel (Abram 190). Thus, mostly, it is called as a short literary work of prose fiction (Abram 286).

Some plots, settings, and characters of short stories are possible to relate to the phenomena that happen, including the social phenomena created by the human as social creature. Then, it is known that God creates human by giving them a brain and desire, which makes them able to decide what they are going to

do or say as what they want. In literary theory, the consciousness that emphasizes personal existence, freedom, and choice is called as existentialism. Jean Paul Sartre states that Existentialism is a doctrine that states that every action and every truth that human chooses indicate their subjectivity (18). Human can be freely doing an action and deciding a decision as what they desire. He notes "man is free, man is freedom."(29). He affirms it in a book entitled *Between Existentialism and Marxism* that is translated by John Matthews that a "man has a freedom to choose in whatever the circumstances, and whenever the sites, even to be a traitor or not" (33).

Relating to that statement, this study tries to analyze the existentialism in the *A & P*. The issue that will be analyzed is the choice that is taken by the characters in the short story. In the *A & P*, the story begins when Sammy is nineteen years old that is working as a checkout clerk at *A & P* supermarket, which is mostly populated by middle-aged housewives in the summer. Then, three young girls come into the supermarket in barefoot and only wear bathing suits. Considering the setting is located in the middle of town, exactly, north of Boston, in which there are some public places, they get reprimand from Lengel, a manager of *A & P* in front of some people that are in the supermarket, who sees them when they are going to pay their groceries to Sammy. However, it embarrasses them and makes their faces blushed. Then, Sammy thinks that what has been already done by Lengel is not a right thing. He decides to stop working there to assist them in the hope that it will attract their attentions.

The *A&P* is a comic short story that was first published in The New Yorker on July 22, 1961: page 22 – 24. It was written by John Updike. After graduating from Harvard University in 1954, in 1955, he began to be a staff writer, contributor editorials, fictions, poetry, essays, and criticism to The New Yorker magazine for a half century. He is the author of twenty-two novels, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning '*Rabbit is Rich*' and '*Rabbit at Rest*', fifteen books of short stories, seven collections of poetry, five children's book, a memoir, and a play (John Updike, NewYorker). John Updike full name is John Hoyer Updike. He was born on March 18, 1932 in Reading, Pennsylvania, U.S. and died on January 27, 2009 in Danvers, Massachusetts. Growing up in Shillington, Pennsylvania, many of his early stories portrayed his youthful experiences.

Then, the reason of this study uses A & P is because the human existence that exists in it which is portrayed by young age of Sammy and Queenie. Their age that are still young, also give effect to them in showing their existence. It includes the actions taken by the main characters that every decision has a consequence that they have to accept. Even, it is a short story not a long novel but implicitly, there is a lesson that can be taken as a lesson in going through life. Thus, based on the previous explanation, this study uses Existentialism theory for analyzing the A & P short story, which concerns on human existence. As being stated by Jean Paul Sartre, as the pioneer of existentialism in *Existentialism is Humanism* that a man determine moral for himself through the actions that they take. They are free to do what they want to do but they have to be responsible for what they have done (10). In line with that, he strengthened his argument in his

book, *Existentialism and Humanism* that the obligation of actions, which is taken by man, is not only responsible for himself but also to all man (4). Relating to it, the purpose is to find the human existence of the characters that is reflected in the *A & P* short story. However, this study also attempts to know the characterization of the characters in the short story and the setting of the short story to relate it with the existentialism theory. Therefore, it uses New Criticism as the supporting theory.

B. Statement of the Problems

Based on the research background, this research is done as a purpose for analyzing the characterization and the choice taken by the characters, Sammy and the "Queenie", one of the three girls in *A & P* short story. It concerns on:

- 1. How are the main characters, Sammy and the "Queenie" portrayed in the *A* & *P* short story?
- 2. How is the existence of Sammy and the "Queenie" reflected in the *A* & *P* short story?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, here are the main objectivities of this research:

 To portray the characterization of the main characters, Sammy and the "Queenie", one of the three girls in the A & P short story. 2. To find out the human existence of Sammy and the "Queenie" reflected in the *A* & *P* short story.

D. Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid an overlapping explanation, this analysis should have a clear scope. Based on the human existence exists in *A & P* short story, this analysis focuses on human existence of Sammy and Queenie characters that exist in the short story. Besides, it also concerns on the characterization of Sammy and Queeni characters that are reflected in *A & P* short story to connect it their human existence.

E. Significance of the Study

This research is done for three significances, theoretically, practically, and generally.

Theoretically, this research is expected to be able to be used as an information, source, or knowledge for the next researchers who need and are interested in analyzing the human existence that exist in short story, novel or others literary works. Practically, this research is expected to be a supporting reference for the next researchers who need and are interested in analyzing this subject. Generally, it might be also hoped to be useful for giving deep understanding about the *A & P* short story for any reader. It includes the short story itself and the implicit meaning or the value that can be taken as a lesson for

life in which we as a human will think first before taking a decision because every choice must always be accompanied by the consequence.

F. Method of the Study

1. Types of Research

To conduct this research, the writer applies library research and for supporting the analysis, the writer uses one short story that is written by John Updike. Then, for completing the analysis of the short story, the writer used some books, articles, and others as references. Then, the method applied in representing the data found is descriptive qualitative because it is conducted to describe and to interpret the data.

2. Sources of Data

There are two data sources for this analysis. The first is the primary data and the second is the secondary data. The primary data is taken from *A & P* short story written by John Updike. Then, the secondary data is got from the books, critical works, and thesis, which discuss Existentialism theory, especially, human existence.

3. Method of Collecting Data

This research uses the documentation data. These are some steps of collecting data, which were done by the writer:

1. Reading and understanding the short story repeatedly.

- 2. Finding some other references, such as articles, journals, thesis, and books that had relation with this study, including the theory, Existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre and the object of this analysis, *A* & *P* short story. In addition, the writer also searched more data by surfing to get the understanding of the short story and the theory.
- 3. Listing data of the important parts of both primary and secondary sources to choose which one can be analyzed for this study.
- 4. Classifying the data into some categories. They are Sammy's and Queeni's existence, their choice and its consequences and character of Sammy and Queenie that have relation with it.
- 5. Selecting the data by rejecting the information that are not relevant to the topic of the study.

4. Method of Analyzing Data

This research focuses on a literary work. Thus, the action that can be done is by doing criticism. Descriptive criticism which focuses more on the content than the style and the structure will be used. In analyzing data, the researcher lists the data to select the proper data for this study. First, the researcher describes the character of Sammy and Queenie in the short story. Then, the analysis is continued to the human existence of Sammy and Queenie. In this discussion, theory New Criticism and Existentialism are applied to describe and to analyze the data of this

research. Next, after describing and analyzing the data, the researcher concludes the whole analysis.

G. Organization of the Study

This study is divided into four chapters. The first chapter focuses on the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, scope and limitation, the significances of the study, method of the study, and the last is the organization of the study. The second chapter focuses more on the literature review, which consists of the theoretical framework and some reviews of related studies. The third part of chapter in this study is about the analysis itself. Here, the focus is on Sammy and Queenie's characters and their human existence (freedom, choice, and responsibility). The last part, which is fourth chapter, is about a conclusion about the whole of discussion.