

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Theoretical Framework

1. Existentialism

According to Jean Paul Sartre in *Existentialism is a Humanism* book, existentialism is a philosophical theory or approach, which declares that human life is possible, which has correlate that an environment is as implementation of every truth and every action of human subjectivity (18). Subjectivity means something that is based on personal opinions and feelings of man (23). As his explanation, that man truly exist, they plan and create their own future in which for reaching it, they do something consciously (23). Then, it can be said that existentialism is a philosophy that concerns on the existence of human, finding self and the meaning of life through free will, choice, and responsibility. It means that in trying to find out whom and what they are during life, a man will decide choice according to their own beliefs, feelings, opinions, and experiences without considering an objective form of truth (allaboutphilosophy.org). However, every personal choices or decisions always have a consequence. Therefore, the existentialist believes that they should be responsible for every choices or decisions that have been taken.

Sartre believes the idea that “existence precedes essence”. He interprets that at the beginning, man exists; he materializes in the world, realizes himself, and then tries to define himself. The existentialist think that man begins with belief

Nellickappilly affirms about Sartre's opinion that even, the existence of man is signed as a fact, but it does not effect on freedom of man of taking a choose (2).

As discussed above, Sartre notes that existentialism talks about human existence in which man has a freedom to choose whatever they want, become whatever they want to be. Certainly, it cannot be avoid that there must be effect for every choice that they take in which in this condition; man should be responsible for it. However, it also may bring influence to others men whom possibly react for our existence. Thus, in this case, it is just certain principle that is explained here: choice, freedom, and responsibility.

1. Choice

Choice is a thing that man should choose, whatever it is because man is the one who determines their own future, including what they want to be. As Sartre states *Existentialism is a Humanism* that man will always choose. Even, they seem to not choose, that still constitutes a choice (44). It is indicated that man cannot avoid a choice. It refers to human existence as being-for-itself in which they are the one who makes themselves by taking a choice. It relates with Sartre's statement that "man makes himself" (46).

2. Freedom

It related with the previous principle that man is free to take choice in life. As Sartre states that man is in situation as one of free choice (47). It refers to Sartre beliefs that man is as subjectivism, which means that man does not only as

an object like other objects but they become as individual subject, who have freedom to chose what they will be (23). He affirms that freedom is related to truly human life (Nellickappily 5).

3. Responsibility

This is a consequence that is allocated to man for freedom in taking a choice in their life. Whatever it is, every choice has a consequence in which they have to be responsible for it. According to Sartre that man is responsible for what he is. In existentialism, he wants to make every man aware of what he is and responsible for his own existence. They are not only responsible for themselves but also for all men (23). It makes a possibility for the existence of anguish, forlornness, and despair in human as a consequence of human that creates their own value and their own world. Therefore, freedom is not pleasant gift, but it felt as a condemnation (Nellickappily 7).

2. New Criticism

New Criticism is the one of theories that is used for analyzing literary work. In analyzing, they leave reference to the biography, temperament of the author, social conditions at the time of its production, or its psychological and moral effects on the reader (Abram 181). The point of this theory is that the analysis will only focus on the text itself. As Tyson says in his book, *Critical Theory Today, A User Friendly Guide* that New Criticism only concerns “the nature and importance of textual evidence; the use of concrete and specific examples from

the text itself to validate our interpretations.” (135). Considering, that sure knowledge of the author’s intended meaning is usually unavailable and also, sometimes, a literary text does not live up to the author’s intention or sometimes, what it is meant by the text, text’ meaning is totally different from what it is meant by the author meaning (136). Thus, it is possible that any reader may or may not give a response to what is actually contained by the text itself because past experience or background of the readers is possibly different with other readers (137). Tyson toughen his argument that New Criticism focuses on the “individual literary work” which separate it from “other literature and from cultural productions,” which definitely needs ‘close reading’, an only way for support for interpreting the literary (Tyson 135).It is introduced by New Critics that means examine carefully or read closely (Tyson 137). It is needed because New Critics argue that all the information and fact are offered by the language of the text itself: its plot, metaphors, point of view, setting, images, symbol, characterization, etc (Tyson 137).

2.1. Character

Character also plays an important role in the story. Abram wrote that the people presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are followed by particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities that is seem from the dialogue and what they do (33). He adds in his book, *Glossary of Literary*, an E. M. Foster’s statement that two types of character possibly occur in literary, flat and round characters. A flat character means “a single idea or quality”, which is introduced

“without much individualizing detail”, which is commonly portrayed in phrase or sentence while, a round character is complicated depiction. It represents uniqueness which is hard to be recognized because it is most like real people that may experience “a radical change, either through a gradual process of development or as the result of a crisis” and usually adequately to surprise the reader (Abram 33).

2.1.1. Types of character in literature

There are some kinds of types of characters that are used by the authors in conveying their works, including short story, drama, and novel. First, characters categorized as major and minor. Then, second, characters categorized as static and dynamic (Azizah 11).

a. Major character

It is a kind of central character that is very influential. It is important because it has some major effects in a literature or fiction. It plays role as a development and resolution of the story’s conflict. Most of the action of story happens around the major characters, which is usually played role by the protagonist and the antagonist. The protagonist is vital character that is always faced with the conflict that must be resolved. Mostly, they have to deal with the antagonist, who creates a trouble and become an obstacle that the protagonist must overcome. The antagonist itself is the person who is preventing the protagonist from getting what he wants or needs (Wiehardt).

2.2. Characterization

It can be meant as the process of an author in describing or showing the character in their literary work as Abram says, it is called as “methods for characterizing” (33). There are two different methods for characterizing the person in narrative, showing and telling. In showing called ‘the dramatic method’, the author presents the character talking and acting and let the reader to infer the motives and disposition that lie behind what they say and do by themselves, which is possible followed by character’s inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events. Whereas, in telling, the author involves authoritatively to describe and to evaluate the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (Abram 33).

2.2.1. Aspects to find character

Then, in showing characters in fiction, author presents some aspects, which are used as tool to find character (Robinson 4).

a. What the character says

By looking at what the character says, the character possibly can be analyzed. It is possible by considering the character’s choice of word, syntax, even tone and diction when they speak (Turner).

used is suggested by Søren Kierkegaard, which is different with this study that is used Jean Paul Sartre's Existentialism.

Then, it is found others study *'The Existentialism Concept of Death in the Main Character in Hemingway's **The Sun Also Rise***, which is written by Trisye Anita Rumba that also uses the similar theory as this study, which is Sartre's Existentialism. Yet, the difference is the focus. The analysis tells about concept of death of existentialism. Another study written by Agista Nidya Wardani entitled *Five Facticities of Existentialism as Represented in Jean-Paul Sartre's Nausea* also uses Sartre's Existentialism theory. Yet, in the study, the writer observe her analysis through five facticities of Existentialism, whereabouts, the past, objects around, others with their own existence, and death, whereas, this study talks about human existence, freedom, choice, and responsibility of human. Moreover, this analysis is different in the object analyzed.