

CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter focuses on the discussion of some theories used as guidance for conducting this study. Those are existentialism theory and new criticism theory. The researcher uses existentialism theory by Soren Kierkegaard as the main theory to describe the process of the main character, Cheryl Strayed, in the effort of self-discovery. As the supporting theory, the researcher uses new criticism theory in order to analyze the personality of Cheryl Strayed as the main character in the novel.

To make this chapter more organized, the researcher divides this chapter into two parts. The first part is existentialism theory which contains the explanation of existentialism and Kierkegaard's existentialism. The second part is new criticism theory which contains the explanation of character and characterization. Below is the explanation of those two parts:

2.1.1 Existentialism

Existentialism belongs to contemporary philosophy. Existentialism is a philosophical movement which views all phenomena based on the existence (Bagus 185). Terminologically, the word existentialism is derived from the word *Existere*, which has the meaning *ex* (outside) and *sistere* (the way of standing). It refers to the meaning as something which is able to go out from the way of standing or something that is able to transcend itself (Abidin 33). There is nothing

which has *existere* characteristic in the reality, except human. Human presents in this world with all of his own consciousness and his own character that differs from the other things. All the things in this world might exist, but they do not interact each other and they do not have a meaning without human (Hadiwijono 147). Besides, human also tries to not confined by any limitations. So that, existentialism only deals with human existence.

To exist, human tends to stand as his own self, and everything around him is related with himself. Human realizes that he exists, and decide his existentialism through his action in the life (Hadiwijono 148). Human defines their own meaning of life, and tries to make rational decisions despite existing in an irrational universe. Human should make decision to select among the various possibilities that exist with full responsibility (Delfgaauw 152-154). Human has right and freedom to decide which one is true or false and which one is the best and the worst for their. As an individual concrete, human has an important role in their life through the subjective and personal choices (Abidin 250). Therefore, only an individual who becomes an actor for their life can be called *exist*.

Existentialism emerges as a way out between the two thoughts of materialism and idealism view. For materialism, the real is significant material. Significant material is the main factor to decide human action, development of history, and society changing (Muzairi 14). According to Rene Le Senne (cited in Muzairi 45), the fault of materialism people is “detotalization of totality”, which reject a totality of “human being” and reduction human being only views from significant material aspect. It means that, the real human, from the point of

materialism view people is only defined by their significant material, or as an object and not a conscious subject. While, idealism argues that human essence lies in his consciousness. The emphasize of consciousness is exaggerated by the doctrine and as the result is, it only takes the human idea to understand human in unity (Driyarkara 1287). This thought tries to understand human nature by the logical thinking. So, if materialism views that human as an object, it differs from idealism that views human as a subject.

The founding father of existentialism, Soren Kierkegaard, is contrary to Hegelian precept that emphasize human as the subjectivism. Ethically, it will make the individual forget his responsibility as an individual, and can eliminate the existence of the individual itself (Tafsir 194). Hegel underestimates human existence as an individual concrete and more emphasize on the abstractionism. Abstractionism views what the real truth in the world is an abstract idea whereas an individual's experience does not, indeed human consciousness is only a momentous of that abstract idea (Hardiman 248). An abstract idea means the idea what human commonly beliefs. It takes human's idea to understand human in unity. Paradigm of Hegel can influence an individual not to be responsible on his action because the individual only enjoy with their crowd.

For Kierkegaard, human never lived as something "common", but human as a unique "individual" and cannot be elaborated into something else. No one else can replace the individual to exist, except the individual itself. In other words, "existence" is an "authentic individual" who acts, or as a brave actor in the real life and not as a "spectator" of mere life (Tafsir 195). Human not only stand as an

sex's instinct, pleasure hedonism principle, and act based on their mood (Tjaya 148). In this stage, Kierkegaard describes human nature more negative than the positive, because their choice is dominated by impulse and emotions (Khuzai 281). The problem of human in the aesthetic stage is human does not have a self, since human choices are determined by his environment, moods and impulses (Obinyan 5). Thus, it can be said that human do not have spesific religious beliefs which hold human's life due it will limit human freedom and choice.

Kierkegaard takes Don Juan as an example of human in the aesthetic stage. Don Juan is a man who prioritizes her sexual desires. He does not have a love and willingness to binding agreement of marriage with any girl. Don Juan also has no commitment and passion in his life. He thinks that love and marriage are barriers for his freedom. For Don Juan, life is just a taste or sensuality. He only thinks how he can enjoy something with what he feels. By Don Juan, love is merely a love as a taste, not love as a totality (Hardiman 94). In this case, sexual encouragement becomes one of temporal pleasure factors of being gratifications without considering any moral values or commitments. In short, the desire has dictated the life of an aesthetic human, such as Don Juan.

By using the character of Don Juan as a symbol of the asthetic, Kierkegaard would like to convey that every human being has a passion or desire in which human can vent their desires without thinking the existing rules. Desire always arises spontaneously as the human senses witness an object and gives rise to a desire. That desire will disappear after man can fulfill his wishes. When the human senses find something else it will give rise to a new desire, and will

in carrying out the daily actualization. Differs from individual in the aesthetic stage that sees a life through a desire only, the ethical individual stage sees a life in the past as a life experience and views the future as a expectations based on the commitment of his life (Kaufman 263). Ethical stage tried to understand life in order to be more meaningful and could carry on the decision of life along with the using of life principle as the instrument of paradigm toward the harmony of life.

Kierkegaard takes Socrates as an example of human in the ethical stage, due to Socrates want to sacrifice himself for the sake of universal moral principles. In this case, universal moral means an unwritten rules of law but it can be able to run by human being rationally who knows a wisdom meaning. This is related to the humanism values, anti-violence, obedience to the law and does not violate the rules of morality. He really uphold those values without regard to the risk that will befall him. During his lifetime, Socrates always reminded the rulers about the rules of law that apply because its contradictory with universal values. Indeed, the rulers of that times were authoritarian. Thus, Socrates emphasized his self for the sake of defending his conviction for the glorious humanism values. He was the person who refused on domination power system that contradiction with the universal humanism values (Abidin 136).

But the fact, Socrates does not arrive at the real existence phase yet. Because he only understands his rational without understanding his existence which still limited. So then, he is feeling guilty cause of his limitedness. In this case, the foundation of good and bad deeds could not be used as an absolute reference. An individual could have been facing paradox that is difficult to be

The relationship between God and human being is a unique and subjective experience. There is no another way to get the knowledge about it except through faith of God. Only an act of faith can assure human relation to God (Stumpf and Fieser 362). It means that only human who wants to reach this stage to approve the transcendent subjectivity which only follows God way. Therefore, only human who has personal beliefs and based on the faith who brave to join's God way and the human's life will be ended in the true identity. The religious stage is marked by the recognition of an individual on the existence of God and the consciousness as a sinner who need of God's mercy.

Kierkegaard takes Abraham as an example of human in the religious stage. He is a figure from the scripture with his independent decision sacrifices his son, Isaac, because of God asked him. Abraham's actions are very contradiction to the ethical stage, because by doing the sacrifices to his son violating standard moral universal. In this case, Abraham emphasizes himself upon relationship and commitments to God. Its territory neither good nor bad, but rather on a genuine actualization of faith in living relationships with God (Kaufman 30). This stage in addition to emphasizing the full awareness of the right things on his own self, but also makes the existence of himself as a whole individual.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that only individu who has the true faith, power of belief and strong personality that can survive in the religious stage. The individu believe that they will end their live with an eternal peaceful and find their true identity after go through the religious stage.

1.1.2 New Criticism

New criticism is an Anglo-American variety of Formalism. Formalism usually called new criticism even though it has been around a long time (Gillespie 172). New criticism is a literary criticism developed in United States which popularized by John Crowe Ransom in his book *The New Criticism* (1940) and continued by I.A. Richards and T.S. Eliot. Thus, American New Criticism mostly took on Elliot and Richards ideas. It was start from the late 1930s to the late 1950s. New Criticism, incorporating Formalism, examines the relationship between a texts ideas and its form, between what a text says and the way it says it. New Critics may find tension, irony, or paradox in this relation, but they usually resolve it into unity and coherence of meaning (Biddle 100). Hence, New Criticism is a literary critics that focuses on literary text and analyzed literary work based on the text.

In literary criticism, theory is the most significant approach, way, or point of view of a critic to criticize a literary work by interpreting, analyzing and evaluating the literary work (Gillespie 3). The basic principle of New Criticism is the meaning of the text itself, not from the author's opinion or the reader's experience (Quinn 284). It means that new criticism emphasizes all of the information and the evaluation of a literary work within the works itself. And it refuses the historical background and the biographical context of author. New Criticism does not even need to find extra textual information outside of the text. The text itself contains all the necessary information to

a character created. It is used by an author in order to build a full and clear portrait of character becomes more alive (Gill 127). Characterization is very important since the reader can explore the novel through the character speech's, actions, and comments of the other characters in order to understand more about the idea of the story. It can be said that character is only the figure person that created by the author and characterization completed it with physical description, attitude, and even how they think and act in the text (Holman 2).

There are two types of characterization. The first is direct characterization. Direct characterization means the author conveys information about a character by telling the information directly to the reader. The author present and reveal characters by direct description, by showing the character in action, or by the presentation of other characters that help to define each other. This is done through narration when the author comes right out and tells the reader things about the character. The second is indirect characterization. Indirect characterization means the author conveys information about a character by telling the information indirectly to the reader. Indirect characterization occurs when the author shows the character in action, and lets the reader interpret what these actions reveal about the character. It is also occurs when the narrative reveals a character's traits implicitly.

Furthermore, there are four fundamental methods in getting information about the characters. The first is speech. The author gives the

choice freely. So, this thesis focuses on the way how the main character to defend his existence and the freedom of choice Robinson Crusoe's way of life.

The second is "*Decision Making in Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist*" written by Hasanah (2008), the student of Airlangga State University. She analyze Santiago's experience as the main character in the novel in dealing with his dilemmas and the process of making-decision. The process giving him a kind of satisfaction and signifies the emergence of self-existentialism as well. And Santiago's decision making process is explained through Kierkegaard's existentialism. Therefore, this thesis focuses on the decision making process done by Santiago to overcome his dilemmas.

The third is "*Pilar's Existence in Her Love Story shown in Paulo Coelho's by The river Piedra I sat down and wept*" written by Mugrib (2016), the student of The State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. This paper talks about the existence that found on the one of main character in the novel, Pilar. The character is described as lacking self-confidence and fearful woman initially. In the end, she becomes as self-confidence and a brave woman. Not only that, love story of Pilar's life brings her through some stages of life based on Kierkegaard's existentialism view. So that, this thesis focuses on how Pilar characterization is described in the novel and how the way of Pilar shows her existence through her love story.

The fourth is "Existentialism Perspective on Siddhartha's Self-Discovery in Hesse's Siddhartha" written by Nevada (2015), the student of The State

