CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Of Study

Existentialism is a philosophical movement which emphasize on individual existence, freedom, and choice (Kaufmann 10). It means that existentialism cannot be separated from action, freedom and choice which are only had by human and not other creature. The other creatures like animal and plant do not have this characteristics. Human is free and has his own choice to continue his life. His decision is controlled by himself to decide the best thing in his life (11). Because he does not depend on anything, he can show his pure existence by his way as free as he wants.

The father of existentialist, Soren Aabye Kierkegaard also emphasizes in his book *The Concept of Irony* that development of man's process is decided by himself. That is the reason that existentialism purely can show by human. Since man is not depending on anything to prove his own existence, he is free to choose the way of delivering his existence. In showing his existence, he must decide himself what to do. It can be done by doing good or bad act, which is not questioned in showing existence. In applying those acts, man will take any kind of risk and always constantly struggle in the process of becoming (56).

Furthermore, Kierkegaard shows the human existence determines the individual quality of a man. It is stated by Wenina that:

The term existence was reserved for individual human being. To exist, he said, implies being a certain kind of individual, an individual who strives, who considers alternatives, who chooses, who decides and who above all commits himself...existence must refer to a quality in the individual, namely his conscious participation in an act...Truth, said Kierkegaard, is subjectivity (14)

In that quotation, it is clear that human existence is known as freedom of individual in choosing and acting to undergo his life. Man will take everything to prove his existence. By his action, man will get pride which is determined by his quality.

On the other hand, the freedom of choosing and acting also brings the responsibility to the doer. It is stated by a great existentialist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre in the book, *Existentialism and Humanism*. He says that man is also commended to be free because in the world he is responsibility for everything he does (17). It means despite of his free choice, he has the consequence of what he chooses. Man must take a responsibility for everything he does.

The concept of human existence all above is greatly portrayed in the literary works. Since literary works is a creation of human being, then it becomes the way to delivers man's existence. There are many of the literary

works which has human existence as the theme of the novel. One of them is *The Old Man and the Sea*. It is written by Ernest Hemingway in 1952.

This novel contains the idea about human existence. It is portrayed by Santiago who performed as the main character of the novel. Santiago is the representation of human being who faces the fact of the real life in which human tries to pursuit of existence. Santiago has his own characteristics which represent the characteristics of human existence. It is shows when he fights to catch fish. He felt faint again because of the attact of fish but he held on the great fish all the strain that he could. I moved him, he thought. Maybe this time I can get him over. Pull, hands, he thought. Hold up, legs. Last for me, head. Last for me. You never went. This time I'll pull him over (Hemingway 35).

In those statements, Santiago provides a great struggle to catch a fish without considering the risk. With his power he turns his body to fight against the fish. He also makes a moving to pull and hold his pole again and again. This is one of the ways, the struggle that Santiago shows to pursuit existence. Within his old body, he tries to deny his weakness and prove that he is able to get a fish. In short, Santiago shows his qualities by doing action to catch a fish which is represent his essence of human existence.

Since there is relationship between the human existence and literature in this novel, the writer feels that it is important to make a further analysis about human existence. *The Old Man and the Sea* provides a great inspiring message which reveals the existence of human being. Hemingway shows that this novel can be learned by other people that people should have struggle to get something. Although it is really hard, but having struggle is must. Fundamentally, this becomes the main reason of choosing this thesis as entitled; *Machoism in Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea*.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study, this thesis analyzes the main character, Santiago. The thesis question is formulated as follow:

- 1. How is the Character of Santiago described?
- 2. How does he show his existence?
- 3. What is the result of his action?

C. Objective Study

- 1. To reveal characterization of Santiago in *The Old Man and The Sea*.
- 2. To explore the Santiago's way to show his existence.
- 3. To reveal the Santiago's action.

D. Scope and Limitation of Study

Because the topic of human existence is still broad, this study only focusses on the main character only. That is Santiago. This study also has

limitation based on characteristics of human existence. From those scope and limitation, this analysis proves Santiago's existence.

E. Significance of Study

There are significances in accomplishing this thesis. The first is theoretical. This thesis is expected to enrich the study about literature, especially Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. It is expected to be a source of information in understanding literature in field of knowledge. The second is practical. This study is expected to make the readers comprehend in understanding the literature as inspiring ideas. Hopefully, by analyzing this novel, it will be a substantive knowledge for readers in applying the message of this literature, which is the message of human existence. It is genuinely expected; as stepping stone for readers in discussing a further analysis about human existence

F. Method of Study

Conducting the analysis, the writer is performing the descriptive qualitative method. The method is applied by describing the data and analyzing them, related to the focus of analysis. Qualitative approach is taken because the analysis is about discussing, analyzing, and finding the characterization. There are some steps that the writer used in order to present the analysis:

- 1. Reading the novel *The Old Man And The Sea* intensively
- 2. Collecting the books which relate to the human existence including journals, notes and relevant sources to the thesis.
- 3. Marking the text related to the idea of human existence and its characteristics as the main data of analysis.
- 4. Quoting the data and describing them into the analysis. The analysis will be performed by explaining the characteristic of human existence as reflected in Santiago's character in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.
- 5. Concluding the analysis

G. Key Terms

- 1. Existence: The being real of human life. It has several characteristics which are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, humanity and faith (Jean Paul Sartre in *Existentialism and Humanism*)
- 2. Struggle: An act of having to deal with difficult situation resolutely, especially with an adversary of superior power or to make violent effort to escape from constraint (Britannia Encyclopedia)

3. Machoism: belief in male superiority which is expressed in terms of physical aggressiveness or being the tough guy who lacks in physical fear (Oscar Lewis)

