

## 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



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:



