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Modernism is a blanket term which encompasses the extensive literary innovation in twenty century which manifests themselves under the influence of psychoanalysis and other cultural historical phenomena (Klarer 72). Thus, some of literary works in that era are mostly specialized its focus topics about new psychological problem, historical rejection and social system which sometimes cannot cope of human's satisfaction. This condition encourages people to sacrifice for searching the other happiness by doing self-discovery.

Self-discovery is the way how human develop their mind by experiencing life, obtaining a wisdom, learning about oneself, coming to an understanding of these and by the end discovering one's identity (Armstrong 96). In the real life that is not all the people who realize about it. Hermann Hesse who quietly aware on human's essence drives him to create some of literary works related to the self-discovery topics. Hesse was a German-Swiss poet, novelist and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946. He is one of the rare writers mastering the worlds of taught far remove from each other. In his works, he mostly captured the anguish of Kierkegaard and the frenzy of Nietzsche, in the form the light rapture of saint, the lust of aesthete, and the bliss of Eastern enlightenment (Solomon 102). Nietzsche's heritage of *Urbmensch* concept is reflected in the characters *Harry Haller* and *Email Sinclair* in the novel "*Steppenwolf*" which narrates about a superior cultured man pursuing his virtue again in the midst bourgeoisie.

At the same times, Kierkegaard's suffering is shown on *Siddhartha's* character who sacrifices his happiness just for finding a spiritual goal. With his appeal for self-realization and his celebration of Eastern mysticism,



fasting, meditating, and practicing self-denial. They want to be empty of thirst, dreams, pleasure, and sorrow. They try to let the "*self*" within them die and to finally reach Nirvana.

Feeling unsatisfied with *Samana*'s teaching, *Siddhartha* and *Govinda* continue his journeys by choosing *Gautama* as their spiritual guide, the Buddha who has conquered in himself the sorrow of the world and has brought to a standstill the cycle of rebirth. For *Siddhartha*, *Gautama* is among all men, has found what *Siddhartha* seeks. He has been certain of this fact from the first moment he saw *Gautama* and recognized the perfect peace within him and saw that he knew the truth. *Siddhartha* esteems and loves *Gautama* yet *Siddhartha* is doubt that *Gautama* will teach him about the ways, with the result he decides to continue his journey until he found what he search.

*"That is what I thought and realized when I hear your teachings. That is why I am going on my way not to seek another and better doctrine, for I know there is none but to take all doctrines and all teachers and to reach my goals alone"* (Hesse 35).

*Siddhartha*'s meeting with *Gautama* becomes a bifurcation point in his life. With his strong obsession he wants to reach what *Gautama* has been reach. However, *Siddhartha*'s goals suddenly is obstructed by his desire to a beautiful courtesan namely *Kamala*. *Siddhartha* changes his previous life to the obsession, spontaneity and desire. *Siddhartha* becomes a drinker, a great gambler, and human who really love his wealth while becomes a merchant. In a moment he feels depressed and guilty then decides to leave everything that he has in the town and back to the river. In the river, he begins to attempt his humanistic moral principles by being an assistant of a ferryman. *Siddhartha* helps each people to

cross the river without any paying. From the river itself finally he gets his perfect peace within himself that is spiritual satisfaction.

The way how Hesse brought this story is very unique. It can be seen from his decision to choose spirituality issue as the main theme. Spirituality here reflects the human need nowadays. In the real circumstances, to live is such as kind of seeking a life identity whether it is felicity or misery. In fact, though felicity people can face their life optimistically as they passed it perfectly to the eternity. Yet, though misery, people perceive that life is full of misery, depression, constrain and hopelessness as experienced *Siddhartha* in the novel. Hence, this case make people think more about how to face their life in balance using various ways, one of them is by spiritual instruction.

Spiritual instruction is the ways human get in touch with the God and the world in a good relation (qtd.in Qamariyah 3). It is difference with the people commonly understood, the novel contains of a fresh idea about spiritual instruction which mostly interpreted in different ways by someone. Hesse, through *Siddhartha's* figure believes that the highest achievement of spirituality itself is getting wisdom. Wisdom in this case is different with knowledge. While knowledge is something that can be communicated, but wisdom cannot be imparted so that it should experience first hands. Thus, the noble values in this novel are proper to know by many people in order the message of this novel will not passed without being noticed by them.

In line with the explanation above, it has been clear that the important issue will be discussed in this writing is about the fundamental theme of self-

discovery. Self-discovery involves developing the mind, experiencing life, obtaining wisdom, learning about oneself, coming to an understanding and acceptance of this, and by the end, discovering one's identity (96). The way of thinking becomes the major discussion in existentialism.

Existentialism is a philosophy of living life as an active, aware, and authentic individual as an effort to seek for truth subjectivity (Solomon 4). Since the study of *Siddharta's* self-discovery has a strong relation with the issue of existentialism or more precisely with the one that belong to the religious sphere, the existentialism philosophy of Soren Kierkegaard will be applied in this thesis. Kierkegaard believes that there is no rigid moral standar which limit oneself to be a being, faith is an important basis for making choices, because only on the basis of faith does an individual have a chance to become a true self (13).

Soren Kierkegaard who has been crowned as the founding father of existentialism argues that there are three stages on human life's ways, those are aesthetic, ethical and religious (87). In details, human in the aesthetic stage is described as a spontaneous one in fulfill his or her desires without considering the universal moral principle, whereas in ethical one human begins to consider the good and bad moral principle. Further, in the last step or it's called as religious, human realizes that the good and bad value is not proper again for their life. The precious one is only his relation with the God.

## B. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of research will be formulated in two following questions :

1. How is *Siddhartha* described in the novel?
2. How is the process of *Siddhartha*'s self-discovery viewed from Kierkegaard's existentialism?

### C. Objectives of the Study

In connection with the problem of statement above, the research aim to find out:

1. The description of *Siddhartha's* character in the novel.
2. The portrayal of *Siddhartha's* life change from Kierkegaard's existentialism

### D. Scope and Limitation

To avoid a broad discussion, the study will be limited to the novel written by Hermann Hesse entitled *Siddhartha*. This study mostly by focusing on the characters represented in the novel. To answer problem of statement above, *Siddhartha* character becomes the most important point to analyze.

Therefore, the scope of this study is focus on the part of novel where *Siddhartha* doing his life as a seeker man after he found his truth identity. The process of *Siddhartha's* life change becomes the scope of this study.



### E. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give valuable contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it hopes that this study can be useful for readers in order to understand some novels that concern to existentialism issue. *Siddharta* 'sself-discovery also can enrich the reader life knowledge, especially for those who have interest in study life through literature.

Practically, it hopes that this study can be used as reference, especially for student of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya who are analyze in this novel or other novel using existentialism theory. For literary scholar or people who are mostly interested in literature, this research becomes comparison for other researches, even this is can be debatable to be more perfect using another existentialism theory viewed from other figures. Since this study concerns to someone that seeks for self identity, it is also expected that this research will be useful for common people to understand their existence in the world by being a unique person, daring to think differently and having freedom to decide choices through the life experience and Kierkegaard's life philosophy.

## F. Method of Study

Research method plays an important role for getting a valid data and explains the analysis process. As Sugiyono states that research method is a scientific way used for finding the data in a certain purpose (3). Therefore, in conducting this research, there are some methods which are used. Those are research design, research data, data collection and data analysis.





- c. Selecting related references that can support the research data.

#### 4. Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis according to Patton (103) is the process of arranging the data sequence to classify in a pattern category and description of the basic unit. As the data in this research is written text come from a novel, the data that have been collected will be analyzed using literary theory. The analysis data will involve some steps, those are:

- a. Rereading the novel many times to get the best understanding on the whole story.
- b. Selecting and collecting the narration and conversation from the novel that are related to the problem.
- c. Classifying the data based on the objectives of study.
- d. Analyzing the collected data based on the theory and concept in theoretical framework.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

### G. Definition of Key Term

**Spiritual Journey** : It term refers to a travel, pilgrimage, or series of events whereby a person attempts to determine how they feel, personally, about spiritual issues or priorities rather than following the opinions of

family, friends, neighborhood or peer pressure (Jacob 22).

Self-Discovery : The process of developing the mind, experiencing life, obtaining wisdom, learning about oneself, coming to an understanding and acceptance of this, and by the end, discovering one's identity (Armstrong 96).

Wisdom : The ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight (Armstrong 108)