

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work is the reflection of society, through which an author can reveals phenomena and society products. As a container of author's suggestions, ideas and thoughts, this imaginative art will be shaped into language. Literary work has strong relation with author's experience, that is the author's reflection and culture recording toward something that happens inside him and society. This statement in line with Luxemburg (23), he states that literary work was born from an author's imaginative process and also can be seen as a symptom which is written in certain period, so it is connected with norms and tradition in the era.

Aminuddin (36) states that literary work can be varying such as prose, drama and poem. Each author has their own style in creating literary work, it becomes the reason why there are so many kinds of literary work theme such as controversial, alienation, the search for identity, and also manifest themselves under the influences of psychology and the phenomenon of cultural history (Klarer 72). These themes relate with human's dynamics in living their life especially as a part of society. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche is one of great author and a thinker whom focus on human way out from given meaning in society in order to find their existence, this concept called as existentialism.

According to Nietzsche a human who have existence is the human who have the will (The will to power), and to have power the human must become a superman (Übermensch) who has master mentality instead of slave mentality.

(<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/existentialism/>). Existence is able to be achieved with suffering because it makes the human will think more actively and they will find themselves. This existentialism concept is described in some novels, one of them is *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.

The Stranger was published in 1942. The writer is the Nobel Prize-winning novelist from France namely Albert Camus. The theme of the novel often reputed as a model of existentialism, although Camus claims that he is not the adherent of existentialism, his work explores the mind way through absurdity, determinism, nothingness, nature, and fortitude philosophy. Meursault is the main character in the novel, in the story, Camus indirectly describes Meursault as the conditional man who always tries to fulfill his physical needs. While walking alone on the beach, Meursault meets one of the arabs who used his knife to wound his friend, Raymond. Meursault who feels blocked to enjoy the shade place decided to shoot the arab five times.

In court proceedings, Meursault seems no sorry for his murder action. Moreover, at the first court sessions he refuses to cooperate with his lawyer and the magistrate. This action gives a great impact on the prosecutor's decision, the prosecutor judges Meursault as a monster who has no soul, so never feel sorry, no place in society and deserves a sentence to death. At the time of the death penalty are waiting, he refuses the appeal. At the day of his execution, Meursault says the indifference of nature to man.

Based on the explanation of main character above, Meursault becomes an object for analysis, which focuses on the dynamics of Meursault existence, by using the concept of Nietzsche's existentialism.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background that has been explained above, therefore the researcher proposes the statement of the problems are:

1. How is Meursault characterized in *The Stranger*?
2. How does Meursault apply the concept of Nietzsche's Existentialism in *The Stranger*?

1.3 Objective of The Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objective of this study are formulated:

1. To characterize Meursault character in *The Stranger*.
2. To know Meursault's application of the concept of Nietzsche's existentialism in *The Stranger*?

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study is expected to give valuable contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it hopes that this study can be helpful for readers in order to understand the *The Stranger's* content and how the existentialism theory is applied in this research. Meursault's principle can also give knowledge to the reader's life, especially for those who have an interest in studying and

comprehending life through literature. Practically, it hopes that this study can be used as reference, especially for students of English Literature in Islamic State University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya who analyze this novel or other novel by using existentialism theory.

For literary scholars or other people who are mostly interest in literature, this research becomes a comparison for other researchers, although this can be debatable to be more perfect by using another existentialism theory. Since this study concerns to someone who falls into despair because of his own principle, it is also hoped that this research will be helpful for common people to understand their existence in the world by being an unique person who will face several situations/conditions which is caused by his/her own principle and Nietzsche's life philosophy.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

To avoid a broad discussion, the analysis will be limited in the novel *The Stranger* by Albert Camus. This research focus on main character's existence in the novel. To answer the main problem, the point of this analysis is discussing about the dynamics of Meursault's existence. Therefore, the scope of this research focuses on part of novel that describe the process of Meursault gets in trouble caused of his will to power until his death through the death penalty. Besides, existentialism will be the scope of this research.

1.6 Method of The study

Research method plays an important role for getting a valid data and explains the analysis process. Therefore, in conducting this research, there are

Awareness :A condition in which a person has complete control of both internal and external stimulus
(<http://hidayahnr18.blogspot.co.id>).

Morality : According to Poespoprojo, Morality is a quality in human actions, the quality becomes the direction to determine whether the action taken including the right or wrong, good or bad (as cited in <http://kumpulanfiledokument.blogspot.co.id>).

