

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literature cannot be separated from human life due literature and real life both have a reciprocal relationship. Literature is the result of dialogue, contemplation and author reaction to the environment and life (Nurgiyantoro 3). The existence of a literary work cannot be separated from its author. Author creates works not only driven by the desire to create beauty but also wishes to express thoughts, feelings, opinions, and impressions of something. Wellek and Warren in his book say that truth in literature and truth outside literature are same (33), the difference is truth in the world of fiction is the truth according to the author's belief, the truth of which has been believed to be true according to his views on life issues (Nurgiyantoro 5).

Conceptly and practicely, the function of writing literature is to make us feel what we see and imagine what we already know (Wellek and Warren 33). Good literary work certainly contains the values of life such as religious values, philosophical, and the other values of life. Thus the literary work can be seen as a form of philosophy or thought that is encased in a special form (110). Therefore, there are some philosophers who express their thoughts in form of literature. One example is Jean-Paul Sartre who is known not only as a philosopher but also a very eminent literary authors. He spreads his existentialism thoughts through several literary works he writes (Driyarkara 1300). So that, literary works can be

examined to reveal the thoughts contained in it, either expressed or implied by using the science of literary criticism, one of which is existentialism.

Existentialism is a philosophical knowledge that protests against the view that human beings are 'objects' but a requirement that one's personal existence should really be taken seriously (Martin vi). Existentialists argue that humans should be aware of their existence and the most important thing is they are questioning the meaning of their existence. Existentialism is answering the human turmoil to the human questions what the difference between human life with other life and what the purpose of their existence anyway are (Martin v), as it is known because God creates various creatures in the world with shapes and their lives differently.

Besides Sartre, there are many existentialist figures that give some opinions on the theory. Based on Bertens, one of them is Soren Abye Kierkegaard who has been crowned as the father of existentialism (84). In his theory, Kierkegaard said that the human existence is able to accomplish through decision and choice that human chooses becoming the creative subject (actor) to decide the way of his existence (Stumpf and Fieser 358-359).

There are many ways that are chosen by humans to show their existence, one of them is choosing to wander by doing a journey. As Bremer said that without action, someone will not succeed. When someone decides target, he must be able to formulate a reasonable plan to achieve it and also specify the tough determination upon the goals he has to do someday. He must grapple during

the journey and follow the plan (20). Someone will be able to find something that is very valuable when he is able to undergo and live a journey.

For humans, it is not easy to undergo a journey. In the trip, many something unexpected and lessons that will be experienced by humans. Hurdles and also the lessons they get will stimulate human mind to think about life, himself and even the purpose of human life itself. Human being is required to know himself, what and who himself and what his purpose to live in this world. God has created human beings with loving. God also gives humans their minds to ponder and keep trying to find out who he is and what they live in the world for. For humans, knowing about their identity will help them to determine human values in order to have a guide to direct them where they want to go (Hadi 17). Humans should be aware of the death of the gulf of life. If they are aware of the death, they also should realize that they are just part of a force that is beyond his grasp. By being aware of it, human will also be aware of the capacity of man himself as well as the purpose and meaning of their life in this world.

Certainly, as the result of dialogue, contemplation and author reaction to the environment and life (Nurgiyantoro 3), literature raises the identity and the meaning of life values as the life issue in it also. Since literature is an imitation and reflection of reality and it is the result of human creativity (7). It can be said that literature is a reflection of human life, it is presented because of human and also reserved for human life. By reading exposure of literary works, readers indirectly can learn and feel the problems presented by authors (3). So, many

works of literature invites readers to attend with the character in for a moment to contemplate who we are, the intent and purpose of our life in the world.

One of the literary works is *Robinson Crusoe*, released on 1719. It is a fiction written by a British author named Daniel Defoe. Daniel Defoe was born in London in 1660 (Alexander 189). Based on BBC NEWS, his novel was inspired by fact story of Alexander Selkirk. He spent more than four years on the Juan Fernandez island after a dispute with the captain of the ship on which he was serving. His story was the basis for Daniel Defoe's famous novel *Robinson Crusoe*. He was well known as a journalist who live by his pen (Alexander 174). It also affected the writing of his novel, Defoe put the journal form inside his *Robinson Crusoe* novel.

Robinson crusoe focuses on how Crusoe as the major character can survive from all the problems that arise in the novel. It can be the obstacles to obtain his ambition. Crusoe is a young man who is 18 years old. A strong desire to show the existence delivers him on a voyage from one island to another. Crusoe is a wealthy merchant's son who is prohibited by his father to sail because the sail will make Crusoe finds various kinds of risks. According to his father, Crusoe is better in the middle position of his life, not in upper or as labour but Crusoe does not think about it. He wants to succeed with doing the sailing. Therefore, he wants to reach his willing by himself without any meddling from his parents on his success later. His father will not give blessing and God will not too if Crusoe does the sailing but Crusoe's ambition to sail on the sea is higher than his obedience to his father. He escapes from his home to sail on to Africa. However, the father's

word is a prayer for his children. In the sailing, Crusoe meets with some obstacles. Even, the inner turmoil occur within himself once. He feels guilty and takes the wrong decision but finally with all the strength he has, he tries to get up and continues his journey. Unexpectedly, a trip which takes him to various problems leads him to formulate his true identity and the meaning of life as a human being.

Robinson Crusoe is one picture of a literary work which is very inspiring the readers with all the struggles experienced in Crusoe's life. With the whole description of his journey that written in the novel, *Robinson Crusoe* presents an overview of the process of finding identity and the meaning of life. Thinking about his identity and the meaning of life in the world means Crusoe tries to understand about his existence as human being. By using existentialism theory, this study will analyze the existence side which is in this novel that starts from the background of Crusoe does voyage to Crusoe's experience in facing all of obstacles during his journey that leads him to find the identity and meaning in his life.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on exposure contained in the background of the study above, this study aims to dig deeper about :

1. Why does Crusoe conduct the journey?
2. How does he experience it?

1.3. Objective of The Study

From those statement problems, the study intends:

1. To find out why Crusoe conducts the journey.

2. To depict Crusoe experiences his Journey.

1.4. Scope and Limitations

To answer statement of problem stated above, this study limits the discussion in this thesis in order to make this research organized well and not widened out of the topic. This study limits the analysis to Crusoe as the main character of *Robinson Crusoe* novel. The scope of this study is focusing on the life journey of Robinson Crusoe that is full of struggle and how he overcomes and handles his problem which leads him to find his true identity and the meaning in his life also.

1.5. Significance of The Study

This study is significant to be conducted due to both the theoretical and practical functions. Theoretically, this study does hope that it enriches the readers' development of knowledge in the literary theory that is related to human existence. Therefore, the readers are expected to comprehend more about it, especially for those who have interest in study life through literature.

Practically, through critical analysis in analysis *Robinson Crusoe* novel using theory related to human existence that provides in this thesis, this study hopes that the readers are able to understand more about the existence of themselves and also the nature of their life in the world in every journey in their life. Moreover, this thesis can add and elaborate point of view of English Department students in UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, especially those who are interested in the meaning of life as the field of study to be further research.

1.6. Method of Study

1.6.1. Research design

To answer the statement of problem number one and two, the study uses library research based. Using library research, This study analyze literary work (novel) which the data is got from text form. By library research method, this study hopes to get valid description of identity and mening of life by using existentialism theory. Besides, the researcher intends to use descriptive analytic method. This research does not aim to examine the certain hypothesis but it just describes a variable, tendency and truly situation (Arikunto 234).

1.6.2. Source of data

In conducting this study, this research uses some supporting data that is got from Library and internet researches. Then the data is divided into two: primary and secondary data. The primary data is the novel *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe. This research analyzes pharagraph, sentences and phrases which is related with the identity and meaning of life of the main character in this novel. The secondary data is taken from some books and internet sources which support this research analysis that are related to this topic, this study uses several data from library, scholar website and any other sources to support the analysis.

1.6.3. Procedure of data collection

Data is a very important aspect in all of studies because the data is very influential in the truth of study. If the collected data is invalid, the research

1.7. Definition of Key Term

1. Journey : It is an act committed by person from one place to other place in which fear may limits person's vision to get the purpose. It serves as the obstacles that may hinder few steps down on the road but believing in talents, abilities, and self-worth can empower someone to walk down to the brighter path (BrainyQuote).
2. Identity : It is a unity of some aspects, ie personality and uniqueness of human being. The human personality is a unity of soul which works mentally and body which works physically but both are needed each other and have relationship. From this relationship will create a personal experience that will make individual unique and distinct from society (Hadi 128).
3. Meaning : Meaning is purpose, significance, and intentions in doing something. Someone needs to take meaning for indicate the purpose, value, worth, and significance of something he does. (Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy).
4. Life : It is experience of being alive. Life is a series of punches. It presents a lot of challenges. It presents a lot of hardship, but the people that are able to take those punches and able to move forward are the ones that really do have a lot of success and have a lot of joy in their life and have a lot of stories to tell (BrainyQuote).