

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

This Chapter discusses review of the related literature. There are some parts in this chapter including Theoretical Framework, Previous Studies and Research Method.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter is used to present the related theory and approaches. As stated in the introduction Chapter I, this research will be based on the Existentialism theory introduced by Jean Paul-Sartre in his *Existentialism is a Humanism* essay and Existentialism theory as it explained by Paul Kleinman in his *Philosophy 101* book. As further step, this research would also use biographical approach.

2.1.1 Existentialism

In existentialism theory, human is a subject. Existentialism concerns in human acts, feels, and lives. During human life, there are some steps to pass. There is certain step in which human feels disorientated and confused, absurdity, in living meaningless world. Everybody could be an existentialist, despite of their background and beliefs. According to Jean Paul-Sartre in his *Existentialism is a Humanism* essay (1945, par.7):

“... man first exists, encounters himself and emerges in the world, to be defined afterwards. Thus, there is no human nature, since there is no God to conceive it. It is man who conceives himself, who propels

himself towards existence. Man becomes nothing other than what is actually done, not what he will want to be.”

From the passage above, it can be inferred when human was born to this world, human knows that human exists as a human and recognizes human life in this world. However, human may be unconscious because human has not decided his/her choice yet. A human should conceive himself/herself towards existence through his/her own experience. According to Sartre’s atheistic existentialism, God does not exist. Human should push himself/herself to live. Sartre also said that we live alone that is what he said when he expressed his most famous statement, man is condemned to be free (Wittmann, 2009:26).

Moreover, as stated by Sartre in *Existentialism is a Humanism*, man chooses himself, not only an individual must choose for himself, but also when choosing himself, he is choosing for all men (2007:24). Here, it shows that Sartre believes that a man creates an image of himself as he ought to be in every action.

Based on Sartre’s notions related to the self-creation, individual comes with his/her identity but cannot be affected by his/her background and history when making decision. Because individual made his/her own choice based on personal experience, he/she should live in balance with his/her freedom (2007:48-49). If an individual does not live in harmony with his/her freedom (in this case his/her choice) he/she is not authentic. It can be concluded that authenticity is a form of self-identity

when the unity of the self is understood as a task for the for-itself rather than as a given.

Moreover, Sartre (2007: 50) showed the connection between individual freedom with those of the others. Individual freedom depends entirely on the freedom of others, and that the freedom of others depends on our own. When operating the level of complete authenticity, it should be acknowledged that existence precedes essence, and that man is a free being who, under any circumstances, can only ever will his freedom while at the same time acknowledging the freedom of others.

Based on Paul Kleinman (2013, page 23-26) there are several themes in existentialism based on Paul Kleinman's *Philosophy 101*, there are:

1. The Individual

Humans exist because they were born to this world, but not every human is conscious about their meaning of life. Every human has the ability to think and act independently in order to determine their own values and purpose defined by their real life, every human is called as 'The Individual' (Kleinman, 2013:23). Moreover, Kleinman discussed further that the personal dependability becomes a center component of existentialism. Hence, an individual has a complete freedom to create decisions which determine his nature.

2. Choice

Choice that has been made by individual will determine individual's nature. Choice made through individual's own outlook, beliefs, and experiences without external influences or society to discover who and what he/she is (Kleinman, 2013:24). Thus, according to Kleinman (2013: 25), in reaching authenticity, an individual must completely be in harmony with his/her freedom. In existentialism, to be in harmony with oneself, an individual should live accordingly. Therefore, the process of decision making should be expected to accommodate one's identity while it should also accommodate his background and history.

3. Anxiety

Anxiety can also be called as a moment of crisis in existentialism because this is the moment when individual feels something that is really different in his/her life about the universe around him/her. He doubts his life which is determined by individual's choice forces someone to re-evaluate aspects of his/her life. Anxiety, angst, and dread will influence one's responsibility and decision making in discovering meaning and values of life (Kleinman, 2013:28). To discuss further, existential anxiety can be viewed as a condition when human mind experiences a type of stress from wondering how to act towards something unknown. Kleinman depicted (2013:30) the world surrounding an individual may affect one's

contemplation of his/her existence leading to thoughts and feelings of freedom and responsibility giving burden to find purpose in life; thus, the individual experiences existential anxiety.

4. Authenticity

Individual comes with his/her identity but may not be affected by his/her background and history when he/she makes decisions and live in balance with his/her freedom. If an individual does not live in harmony with his/her freedom (in this case his/her choice) he/she is not authentic. It can be concluded that authenticity is a form of self-identity when the unity of the self is understood as a task for the for-itself rather than as a given (Kleinman, 2013:25).

5. The Absurd

This theme appears when individual does not really understand about his/her reasons when deciding his/her choices, so everything becomes absurd. This description may appear when individual fails to provide any insight into meaning or value. Individual, according to existentialism, should come to term with the fact and realize his/her inability and impossibility in understanding the world. The world has no meaning other than the meaning we grant to it (Kleinman, 2013:26).

2.1.2 Biographical Approach

Based on Miller and Day (2012:17-18), biographical approaches are designed to allow the interviewee maximum leeway in expressing their own life history from their own perspective. In addition, the interview has the capacity to reveal the psychological processes and transformations that a person has gone through during their life to arrive at the current sense of self and identity.

In line with this approach, in literary, biography is detailed description or account of someone's life. To take it further, according to Nigel Hamilton (2007:16), a biography became the correct dictionary designation for a written record of a particular human life. More than list of basic facts (education, work, relationship, and death), it depicts the subject's experience of those events. Moreover, it presents the subject's life story, highlighting various aspects of life, and it may include an analysis of the subject's personality.

Biographical approach is employed to examine the relation between author's biography with author's literary works. In addition, a particular poem or song is subject to this kind of analysis simply by nature of its material in relation to the background of the author's personal experience. On the light of the previous details, biographical approach used to understand and comprehend a literary work by studying deeper about the life of the author. George Alexander Kennedy in his *The*

Cambridge history of literary criticism: Classical criticism, chapter "Peripatetic Biographical Criticism" (2008:205), stated that:

"The works of authors were read as sources of information about their lives, personalities and interests. Some of this material was then used by other commentators and critics to explain passages in their works. The process became a circular one in that, though Peripatetic biographers utilized external evidence where available, they had little to go on and quarried the texts for hints"

There are several singers who write their own lyrics inspired based on their own life. One of whom is Bob Dylan becoming a prominent lyricist writing with strong philosophical themes and values (Porter, 2011:22).

2.2 Previous Study

There are two previous studies on existentialism theory. The first study is Sartre's Existentialism in Ursula Will Jones's *Vusi Makusi* (Achmad Budi, 2015). This research analyzes why Makusi chooses himself to be someone who has a strong decision in everything using Sartre's existentialism. This thesis focuses on the main character named Makusi as the main character in the short story creates his essences, who becomes an optimist. The reason of using this research as previous study is because Achmad Budi's study is similar to this study.

The second study is Mar'atus thesis titled *Megamind's Existential Crisis* in Megamind. This research analyzed Megamind's existential crisis dealing with some processes that he has to pass using Sartre's existential theory.

There is a similarity from those previous studies, they used existentialism theory. Both studies focused on the main character. Although these studies have some similarities, these studies different in case of the object of the study they used. Achmad Budi (2015) concerned to how the main character in the short story creates his essences becoming an optimist person.

While Mar'atus (2015) concerned on how Megamind deals with some processes that he has to pass during his existential crisis using existentialism theory by Jean-Paul Sartre. While this study employs existentialism theory with biographical approach to analyze how authenticity of individual choice is depicted through Bob Dylan's lyrics. These two previous studies help the writer in choosing the theory and approach for this study.

2.3 Research Method

In doing the research, there are several steps taken: choosing the object of the study, collecting the data, analyzing and interpreting the data, and drawing conclusion.

2.3.1 Deciding the Object Material

The study uses "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," "Desolation Row," and "Not Dark Yet" song lyrics by Bob Dylan as the objects of the study in this thesis. The writer is interested in this object because the song lyrics are about

Existentialism main themes, Authenticity of Individual Choice in Freedom using Jean-Paul Sartre's Existentialism. Therefore, these lyrics employing Bob Dylan's skills in engaging the listeners' intellectual nature related with philosophical theme will be beneficial to reveal the objective of the study.

2.3.2 Collecting the Data

To collect the type of data, the writer reads the song lyrics several times to understand the implicit content, and the writer takes whole song lyrics using biographical approach as the data to use as evidence to support the analysis and the arguments.

2.3.3 Analyzing and Interpreting the Data

The writer chooses biographical approach to prove that Bob Dylan has put authenticity of individual choice in freedom in his song lyrics. The specific philosophy theory is the use of Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism theory. Furthermore, the writer wants to find out the relation between Bob Dylan's life and his song lyric meanings. The theory is used to analyze the whole song lyrics divided into several quotations as evidence in this thesis.

2.3.4 Drawing Conclusion

The writer concludes the types of Bob Dylan's way of life and experiences which are depicted in "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," "Desolation Row," and "Not Dark Yet" song lyrics.

