ABSTRACT

The way of existence of the main character in novel '69' was criticized in this research. Novel '69' was chosen as the object of this research because this novel has background about one of a town, Sasebo, in Japan at 1969, which is believed also has illustration about western philosophy (existentialism) in Japan. Besides, as information, west philosophy and theory were first introduced in Japan at 1960. This research used qualitative method, because literature is words and symbols frame, not number. Then, to get the depth sense of the novel, close reading method was used as well. In this research, '69' as the main source and the other source (such as theory books) as the complement. Karl Jaspers’s existentialism theory was used in this research. The theory was chosen because it tells about human existence in ‘limit situation’ (Grenzsituationen) and tells about human existence, as personal, in social life as well. This novel tells story about Yazaki Kensuke, the main character, when he was seventeen years old in 1969. It was a flash back story. At the time, Yazaki as teenager who was born and grew up in small town, Sasebo. Although he was lived in small town, he had never confined his knowledge. When, all pressure was given by his high school, it didn’t make Yazaki desperate and afraid. Nevertheless, Yazaki with his creativity had shown his existence in all aspect, such as in art by creating a festival, the first festival in Sasebo, and in politic by creating a high school students demonstration, and also the first demonstration in Sasebo. Yazaki’s existence wasn’t alienation existence. But with other people, his existence was done. His cheerful and smart characters made him had a lot of friends, despite, most of his teachers thought that Yazaki was madness.

Keyword: Yazaki, existentialism, barricade