

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

People are different among others, even people with the same characteristics will not be exactly the same. With that point of view, people usually have to fix or adapt to their surrounding, especially in controlling and overcoming their behaviors and attitudes. These things are usually done to avoid kind of frictions that possibly happen among them in dealing with different characteristics and attitudes.

The problem is that there would be some people who feel difficult in dealing with their surrounding or they intend to be different as they are and avoid adapting to their surrounding consciously. This is based on what Jean Paul Sartre's state of opinion that every human relation is basically based on conflict. The conflict itself is the core of every inter-subjective relationship (Bertens 96-97). This statement, according to Sartre, is related to the theory of consciousness that special activity of consciousness is to nihilate (*others/the nothing*) (Sartre 99). With consciousness nihilating others, human would get freedom because Sartre assumes that human is freedom and otherwise freedom is human. Beside freedom, human can be described as the only creature whose existence precedes essence (qtd. in Bertens 97). In this state of condition (existence precedes essence) human is free to decide their essence. By deciding their essence human would be authentic and the authenticity of human is to be free and so is otherwise.

As human existence is to be free then human needs to be conscious of their being and nothingness, of value of their life as essence and of avoiding *bad faith* (being unauthentic) which means of authenticity. (Human need to be) conscious of their being and nothingness means that he/she is nothing than a matter of existence until he creates essence of his/her being (Spade 83). (Human need to be) conscious of their value of his/her life as essence means that he/she creates (or picks) one value of other values as his/her *facticity* (while human is free to choose, human is not free not to choose) which he realizes of as the essence of his existence (Spade 83). And (human need to be) conscious of avoiding *bad faith* which means the authenticity or means that to act his/her essence as what he/she realizes (Spade 147).

These three processes of human to their existence are found inside *The Outsider*, a novel by Albert Camus, a French-Algerian writer who was born on 7 November 1913 in Mondovi, Algeria. He was born with poverty surrounded him and left by his father in Marne War a year after. Finishing his primary school, he got scholarship to the high school (Lycee d'Alger 1923-1930) and after finishing his study on philosophy, he works as a clerk, journalist, politician and surely a writer. As his great works on writings (novels and plays) he was awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957. One of his finest writings which delivers him to the Nobel Prize was *The Outsider*, translated from its original *L'Etranger* (1947) (Roeming 23).

The Outsider tells a story about Meursault, an atheist and the hero of the novel, who struggles, ironically, not to struggle to get out of jail (for he has killed

an Arab) as other people used to do. It is because he thinks what he has done (killing the Arab) is a matter of defense and it is not related to the previous events (before he killed an Arab) he did and his personal relations with his friends and families. That is why in the court when people are judging him for killing an Arab by relating with previous events he did and his personal relations with his surround which he thought unrelated at all makes him wonder and commit not to do defense in court as long as the murder is related to everything outside the murder itself.

The Outsider is divided into two chapters. First chapter begins with the death of Meursault's mother who stayed in an Old People's Home which was far away from Meursault's work place so that in order to come to funeral ceremony, he had to ask two days off to his boss. As he worked hard and travel was quite long, he felt so tired when he arrived at his mother's funeral ceremony so that he slept in a chair in front of his mother's corpse and did not show sad face in the ceremony due to tiredness. After coming back from ceremony and started his daily life, Meursault – as he used to do with his girl-friend, Marie – went to the cinema for comedy movie. Besides that, he continued doing everything he used to do (working, having a talk with his friends and relations and all he used to as human being).

It then continues with the activity of Meursault who was having vacation with Marie accepting invitation from his friend, Raymond to visit Raymond's friend in a suburb of Algeria as a thank to Meursault for being defense witness by saying that Raymond's ex-girl-friend has cheated Raymond in Police Office for

Raymond from accused to do violence to his Arab-ex-girl-friend. This then counted Meursault into a situation which then put him into a murder to an Arab, the Raymond's ex-girl-friend's brother. This murder is done by Meursault in order to defense from the Arab's second attack (which the first and second attacks are actually targeted to Raymond who was conditionally together with Meursault and Raymond's friend) and there is no option except killing him at that time.

The second chapter then continues to the court of Meursault which mostly discussed one-sided-judgment of Meursault's personal characteristics – not as a hard worker and good friend, but as a non-ambitious person and as a person who did not show sadness to his mother's funeral ceremony. The court is also much more busy on how meursault's activity in his mother's funeral ceremony and one day before than the situation of the murder itself. Even in the end, the descriptions on Meursault's activities in the funeral ceremony and the day before; having white coffee in front of his mother's corpse, having no crying or sad face in the ceremony and watching comedy film (Fernandel's film) with his girlfriend, Marie and also sleeping with her afterward become the main point of the execution to him. He was finally judged as a convict and the murder was not a matter of self-defense therefore he has to be executed in front of people.

The outsider was assumed by David Zane Mairowitz as an absurd ideology as Albert Camus used to describe himself for rejecting existentialism (*Camus for The Beginners*, 1998), but the writer has different assumption. That is no absurd ideology as Albert Camus and David Zane Mairowits assume but it is Sartre's Theory of Existentialism. Based on this prejudice, the writer then decides

to apply Jean Paul Sartre's theories of Existentialism which is only its three concepts; being, value and bad faith that are taken by the writer to give kind of affirmation or otherwise there would be negation to the presumption itself as the main point of the research.

This research wants to highlight Meursault's daily activity as a person who is as similar to other people who have circle of friends and work hard for his living while in the same time he has three processes of human existence based on Sartre's existentialism. So then those drive him in the way he face his surround and his life. As result, he chooses his way as a matter of his existence as what Sartre stated that to exist is to be authentic (Spade 147).

As a consequence of existential choice, Meursault becomes an honest person. This honesty will be the central point of this research in the way how it is chosen by Meursault and then defines Meursault which resulting to effects on the he behaves. According to Sartre, "If there is no God, everything will be permitted." Yet, if someone is in the toilet (in the room which he/she exists him/herself), he will be permitted to do whatever he wants (Sartre 35). Thus, the honesty which Meursault embraces is both caused by society (places included) and will have consequences toward society.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The writer proposes the following questions that will be focused in analyzing Meursault and his Self Existence in *The Outsider*:



1. What is the significance of Meursault's honesty as his self existence?
2. What is the significance of the setting toward Meursault's Self Existence?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Regarding the statement of the problems, the aims of the analysis of the thesis are:

1. To describe the significance of Meursault's honesty as his existence.
2. To describe the significance of the setting toward Meursault's existence.

1.4. Significance of the Study

By analyzing meursault's being and nothingness, value and authenticity inside *The Outsider*, this study is proposed to reveal sort of someone's self-existence which affects characteristic and the way of seeing life. It is also targeted that this study will give a knowledge how people solve his problem based on what they believe as the ideal way.

This research is also meant to give contribution towards the study of literature. It is also hoped that the result of this research will be improved by subsequent research about the importance of someone's other perspective towards

life and living life which then giving understanding to the importance of pluralism.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid the excess of analysis to the topic, this research will be focusing on the description of the significance of Meursault's self-existence, which influences him in the way he sees his life and his living life. It will also try to see how the setting in the novel influences Meursault' self existence. This research will also use four Jean Paul Sartre's concepts of existentialism those are concept of being, concept of value, concept of authenticity and facticity in order to find the origins of the problem and how they are solved by Meursault and how concept of facticity has influences on him in the point of view to his life and his living life.

1.6. Theoretical Background

The Outsider tells about a clerk in which the main character's personality is influenced by his self-existence that drives him to the way he sees his life and his living life. Therefore to analyze the problem, Existentialism theory will be applied in analyzing the problem.

Jean Paul Sartre's Existentialism theory especially concept of being, concept of value, concept of avoiding bad faith or authenticity and concept of facticity will be applied in this research because it is related to the existence of the main character which then drives him into his point of view to his life and his

living life and how he cope with his problems. The existentialism theory is considered suitable to explain the events in *The Outsider* and the process of the main character's personality development influenced by his existence and also to give prove evidence whether the character is an existentialist or not.

1.7. Method of the Study

The writer will use the qualitative research methods in the analysis. This research consists of the collection of observed materials such as life story, personal experience, study case that give description of a daily problematic event and meaning in Meursault's experiences. The main source of this research is the text itself, *the Outsider*, a novel which is written by Albert Camus, so the qualitative research methods will be used. The writer does close reading of the text and selects data that is related to the problem that will be analyzed by giving quotation in the paper. Therefore this method is also supported by library research and the literature studies. The collected data will be analyzed using existentialism theory in analyzing the matters in the novel.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

In the analysis, the important terms that are need to be noted, are listed as follows:

1. Authenticity : A state of condition which avoids *bad faith*.
2. Bad Faith : A state of condition when people lie to themselves.

3. **Facticity** : A state of condition where is no good reason is more ideal why something should exist or not (while Iam free to choose, Iam not free not to choose).
4. **Honesty** : A basis value which leads into self-consciousness which underlies the value itself as the source of authenticity.
5. **Nothingness** : A state where reflective consciousness does not occur/ a state where is no consciousness.
6. **Self Existence** : A state of a person condition which is seen from his/her appearances or attitudes.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW