

ABSTRACT

In China, more than two decades since the Maoists had occupied the Chinese mainland, the intellectual class had been purged with the utmost cruelty. The China's Cultural Revolution during 1960's until 1970's became the catastrophe era in which the central character of the novel *One Man's Bible* was sent to a re-education camp because of his learning. Every expansion of 'literary rectification' was signaled another power struggle. Writers and artists had been the victims of their bloody persecutions. The central character as a Chinese writer burned a suitcase which was full of his manuscripts, including novel, plays and articles.

Thus, the central character encounters the danger life in his homeland: daily life was riddled with paranoia and fear, and government propaganda turned citizens against one another. In order to preserve himself and avoid the danger being known as a counterrevolutionary, that opposed Mao Zedong, he often hid his real thoughts beneath a mask and, thus, he had lived in hypocrisy. Hence, he enjoyed the loneliness, lived as a loner suspecting the others would know his reactionary thoughts and reported him to the Party. When the Cultural Revolution ended, the central character has led his life as an expatriate writer in France, traveling around the world, receiving accolades, and meeting more women. He doesn't believe in God, and knows nothing about morality. He behaves according to his impulses and emotions. His chief motivation is a desire to get the widest

variety of pleasures enjoying the freedom in writing and making love with many women.

This thesis is an effort to study the central character's quality as well as the way he constructs and tells the story of his novel so that the act of writing the novel itself becomes the act of freedom. The discussion would apply the theory of Existentialism in order to gain a comprehensive study and to give meaning to his quality and events depicted in the novel. Thus, it is expected that the readers would get a good understanding about their selves as the individuals who exist in this world, and appreciate the differences between people by God's guidance.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION