

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

One is born as a free man. We are free to breathe the air, to choose our society, to communicate with other people, and so on. From those facts we can say that basically, freedom is one of human rights. As we all know, human rights are the basic rights of man, which are carried since he or she is born as God's gift. Man is to live according to God's will as to have right of living, right of freedom, and right of pursuing happiness. In the right of freedom, there are freedom of speech, freedom of socialization, freedom of having a religion, and freedom of will.

As the basic human right, freedom has a main role in humanism. The word "humanism" itself has a number of meanings, but the writer tends to define humanism—as stated in Ralph Barton Perry's book *The Humanity of Man*—as a gospel, cultural movement or educational program which originated in Europe in the twelfth century and idealized man (5). "Ideal" means that humanism considers man an object worthy of admiration and, as a creed, is inspired by the the revival of knowledge and antiquity and is identified historically with the revolt against certain prevailing tendencies of the Middle Ages. Perry says in his book that man's peculiar dignity, which makes him worthy of such distinction (worthy of admiration), lies in his capacity for freedom. "Freedom" here is defined as man's exercise of enlightened

choice (6), that means the action in which habit, reflex or suggestion is superseded by an individual's fundamental judgements of good and evil; the action whose premises are explicit; the action which proceeds from personal reflection and the integration of interests (26). Based on the explanation above, the writer considers that it is interesting to analyze Henri Charriere's novel *Papillon* with the topic concerning with freedom and humanism.

Papillon is a novel based on the true story of a chap by the name of Henri Charriere, the author himself. Charriere was born in 1906 in Ardeche, a remote district in the south of France where his father was the master of a village school. After doing his military, Charriere went to Paris, where, having acquired the nickname of Papillon (French for 'butterfly') for the butterfly tattoo on his chest, he soon carved himself out a respected place in the underworld (O'Brian 12-13). As a young man he was a safecracker, a thief, and by some accounts, a pimp in Paris when he was arrested and convicted in 1931 of murdering a Montmartre gangster-pimp, Roland Legrand. Charriere always denied his guilt for the murder and attacked the inequities of French justice.

Nevertheless, he was sentenced to life imprisonment and sent to Cayenne, the notorious penal colony in French Guiana. His first escape, three years later, was made in an open boat about 1,800 miles (2,900 km) to Maracaibo; he lived with some jungle Indians, moved down, and was caught and shipped to Devil's Island. He tried eight more escapes, succeeded on the last, floating away on a coconut raft (in 1944), and settled in Venezuela, working at various jobs over three years, remarrying, and

establishing a profitable restaurant in Caracas. At the age of 62 in 1968 he wrote *Papillon*, which was published in the following year in France (and which, by the time of his death in 1973, had sold about 5,000,000 copies in 16 languages). It was made into a film in 1973. In 1970 the French minister of justice issued a decree of grace, removing legal restrictions on Charriere's return to France. In 1972 he published an autobiographical sequel, *Banco (Banco: The Further Adventures of Papillon)*. Charriere was accused of inventing many of the adventures in *Papillon* and appropriating to himself the adventures of others. Two debunking books in this vein were Georges Menager's *Le Quatre Verites de Papillon (1970: The Four Truth of Papillon)* and Gerard de Villiers' *Papillon Epingle (1970: Butterfly Pinned)*.

The writer chooses the particular topic from the novel for some reasons. First, because the writer is impressed in Papillon's amazing spirit and efforts to struggle for his freedom. Moreover, it is done for the reason that he should not have deserved a sentence for a crime he has never committed. He never gave up trying to make a break every time he has a chance. If he fails, he will try it another time. Life in the penal settlement is so tough and savage, but the writer salutes Papillon's survival for thirteen years in such an environment—unsympathetic guards, death by guillotine, homosexual activity, and solitary confinement. But for Papillon, survival is not enough; he has to be free. He must have some motivations to do so. If he does not, why does he keep repeating dangerous escapes?

The second reason, Papillon's behavior towards other characters in the novel makes the writer challenged to dig more about his psychological condition.

Sometimes he is kind to other people, but some other times he shows his willingness to kill and maim others without much remorse.

The third reason is concerning with Papillon's spiritual experience during his escape with his fellow-escapers. Papillon was an atheist; but after passing some experience with the people he met in Trinidad, Curacao, Goajira, and during his voyage on the rough sea, he became a man who believed in God's existence.

Papillon is a rare-kind person to be found as a convict. He was smart, seaship-skilled, tolerant, and brave person all in one. His views of France law system at that time, of the inhuman punishment in the penal settlement, of morality and humanity virtues are all to be found in the novel. Those virtues will influence Papillon's continual struggle to get free from the penal colony. The role of the people who are involved in the trial which makes him imprisoned for life is also important in understanding Papillon's feeling of injustice. At first, making revenge on them is the main thing which supports him to be free as soon as possible. But how it, then, changes is one of the reasons why the writer wants to analyze the character in this piece of writing. The writer also wants to prove a statement which says that "a man is never wholly lost and that he must be given a chance so that with help he might go straight" (Charriere 557) through the analysis in chapter three.

B. Statement of The Problem

The study of Papillon can be formulated as the following :

- B.1 Why is Papillon so driven to escape?**
- B.2 How is Papillon's psychological condition during his punishment periods?**

B.3 What values did Papillon get during his escaping efforts?

C. Objective of The Study

This writing is to find out three important points, which are:

C.1 To find out some motivations that cause Papillon's eagerness to escape.

C.2 To get a description of Papillon's psychological condition.

C.3 To look further some values that Papillon got during his escaping efforts.

D. Significance of The Study

As a scientific writing, the study in this thesis should have contributions to the writer as the analyst as well as to the *civitas academica* of Faculty of Letters especially of English Department. The writer's expectation of studying this novel so that we can understand more about human rights and apply them well in our social life.

E. Scope and Limitation

In order to make the analysis objective and systematic according to the problem, the writer will focus the study on Papillon's character with his condition of mind, and the situations around him during his punishment periods. All those are viewed from humanistic perspective, which also means to be seen from humanism ideas.

F. Theoretical Background

To support the analysis of the study, the writer will apply three approaches. They are phenomenological approach, psychological approach, and sociological approach. Phenomenological approach is chosen because, as stated by Raman Selden

in his book *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*, "it did not encourage a purely subjective concern for the critic's mental structure but a type of criticism which tries to enter into the world of a writer's works and to arrive at an understanding of the underlying nature or essence of the writings as they appear to the critic's consciousness" (51).

Psychological approach used in the analysis humanistic psychology. It concerns with man's conscious awareness of the laws that underlie and determine the course of natural events. As C. William Tateson says in his book *Humanistic Psychology: A Synthesis*, "...among all living organisms, humankind alone is meaningfully aware of its own existence. Our capacity of self-consciousness is what distinguishes us from other human beings on the planet. It is the source of our personhood, our dignity, and our freedom, our unique ability to understand and to adjust to our environment, and, potentially at least, to fashion ourselves or to discover within our own existence" (51).

Sociological approach is used for understanding Papillon's desire to be free. He struggles in regaining his freedom, so there must be some social reasons that motivate him to escape. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in *Theory of Literature*, say "...literature represents 'life'; and 'life' in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation'. The poet himself is a member of society, possessed of a specific social status: he receives some degree of social recognition..." (94).

G. Method of The Study

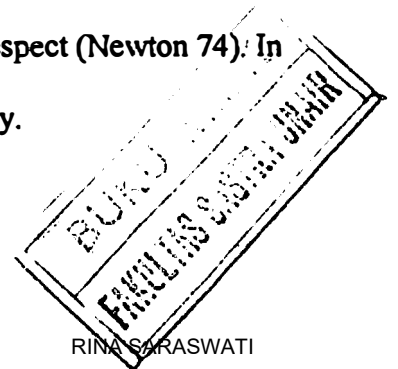
G.1 Technique of Data Collecting

The technique of data collecting consists of certain steps. The first step is library research. In the effort to gain the information that can support the analysis, the writer uses and applies the library research. It is applied by gaining and collecting the important information from printed materials such as books and dictionaries and also from internet related to the life and the works of Henri Charriere. The other sources are also gained from books dealing with the literary approach used in the analysis of the novel.

After collecting data, the next step is close reading. The third step is classification. After making the classification, the writer determines the data that can be used in the analysis is the data that has connection with the vision of the author who is the main character himself in the novel.

G.2 Technique of Data Analysis

The technique data analysis is by using descriptive analysis, which is applied to give descriptive explanation of the problems found in the work through the dialogues, events, and actions in the story. To support the explanation, the writer also needs to use textual analysis. As Roman Ingarden says in *The Literary Work of Art*, for the literary work as aesthetic object to be brought into existence it must be 'concretised' by the reader since the work will inevitably be schematic or indeterminate in many respect (Newton 74). In that way, the character in the novel can be described fully.



G. Definition of Key terms

struggle (n) : great effort or series of efforts based on strong faith.

freedom (n) : the state or quality of being free, especially exemption or release from imprisonment.

humanistic (adj.) : in a way of being humane.

perspective (n) : a specific point of view in understanding or judging things or events, especially one that shows them in.

(Neufeldt and Guralnik: Webster's New World Dictionary).

CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK