

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the general information of the study. It consists of the background of the study, the research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the research methodology, the significance of the study, the clarification of key terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of The Study

Issue regarding identity has become the postmodern society's first world problem and knowing its roots is important. Question like how? Or why? could lead us to an explanation on how to avoid the negative effects of identity issue. And in some research existentialism, since it is dealing with self, has been charged as the roots of many issues relating to identity.

Existence precedes essence. We create our own self and discover our unique essence. This expression covers the general idea of existentialist philosophy. Existentialism was first introduced through the work of a Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) and soon inspired other philosophers across Europe dating from 19th to 20th century such as Friederich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Albert Camus. Existentialism has a great influence outside the field of Philosophy since at least three of its member is a well-known figure in Philosophy and a widely read Philosophy author. Therefore, there are countless kinds of existentialism being adopted cross disciplinary lines such as in the field of Psychology and arts. But, within philosophy, it can be said that existentialism is a loose movement. Some philosophical authors living under this heading never use the term or somewhat deny the term existentialism. Even Sartre himself admits that he never heard the term existentialism.

The idea of defining life giving true purpose on our existence and creating meaning out of it strike with a taste of pessimism. Some people might also think of this idea as meaningless or even absurd. Some explanation even describes existentialism using tropes like angst, boredom or fear. But, nothing inside existentialism gives negative views towards life, humanity and reality. In fact, existentialists thinking of a positive change in life is indispensable otherwise existence is just a complete blank. In this point of view, existentialism can be a good tool in approaching reality.

The existentialists communicate their views through literary works such as play, novels or short story more than any other philosophical movement do. Since the 20th century, many novels were being published with the value of existentialism within. Rickman (2001) argues that there are at least two factors that make existentialism, or philosophy in general, is suitable for literary expression. The first is as a remembrance that philosophy is about human life and its problem not just a form of academic theory. He believes remembrance has always been philosophy main concern, changing the world, because there are several philosophers and philosophy movement members who protest that they only perceive how the world work and demand to be left in peace as they give no harm to the society. Marx (1969) on his works entitled Theses on Feuerbach said on thesis 11 that the philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; but the point is to change it. This expression of Marx implies that according to him philosophy had been more concerned only with understanding and describing how the world work than changing it and against these existentialist, or generally philosophy, give constant remembrance that it is about changing the world for the better. Secondly, according to Rickman, existentialism insists on the uniqueness of individuals. This second factor serves as a powerful reason for philosophy resorting on literary expression. The characters in literary works show us how particular person in specific situation responds.

In Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*, the Existential aspects that come forward is complete freedom. In Sartre's philosophy of Existentialism, human being can enjoy freedom through a series of free and constant choices, while at the same time, one should pay for this freedom by shouldering the responsibility and commitment accompanying the freedom.

Previous study has been conducted to examine the existentialism part of *A Clockwork Orange*. Hong (2010) in his research found out that Anthony Burgess's novel *A Clockwork Orange* explores human being's predicament of freedom — the contradiction between Libertarianism and Totalitarianism. Anthony Burgess's novel *A Clockwork Orange* explores human being's predicament of freedom — the contradiction between Libertarianism and Totalitarianism. Moya (2011) in her research stated that Alex as the main character choose the particular way of life as a way to accommodate his desire. The two research explain how existentialism is compared and contrasted with other literary movement and what triggered Alex, the main character to choose the kind of life to live. All these studies focus on the external/social forces that

shapes Alex's personality. They do not explore Alex's internal drive which is very important in the development of someone's freedom. This last issue is the focus of this study.

1.2 Research Question

This research focuses on the issue of freedom of the central male character Alex in Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange* to answer this following question:

- How is freedom defined in Anthony Burgess' novel *A Clockwork Orange*?

1.3 Aims of The Study

The aim of this study is to explore the issue of freedom in the life of the central character, Alex, in Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange* and how freedom is defined as shown from the action and decision Alex made throughout the novel.

1.4 Scope of The Study

This study discusses how freedom is defined in the novel. This novel tells about Alex rebellious youth (a gang leader) who practices his freedom freely and lives in dystopian London with no rules and is guarded only with a corrupted police institution. The definition of freedom in the novel is tracked down from the perceptions and actions of the main character shared by other characters and those of the main character shared by himself. So, this study only focuses on the perceptions of the main characters shared by other characters in the novel and the perceptions of the main character shared by himself. Although the supporting characters and antagonists would also be analysed, but it is only for supporting the main analysis about the main character and would not be included as the focus of the study.

1.5 Research Procedures

To track the definition of freedom as constructed in this novel, this study looks into freedom according to existentialism and post-colonialism as well as compares and contrasts it with the practice of freedom found in the novel. In Existentialism, according to Spinelli (2005), freedom is identical with existence. Freedom is the totality of human existence in one's environment, involving both choices and responsibilities, for human is always free within their situation to choose the meaning in their life, free to reconstruct his interpretation of experience, free to reassess and alter them if they

choose. As for Post-Colonialism, according to Anshari (2014), the struggle for freedom has been a significant chapter in the annals of human history. The desire for freedom comes from the experience of oppression. When the experience of the oppression is common, so is the drive for freedom. This means according to post-colonialism; freedom is something that emerges from the existence of oppression. Those two theories are chosen because they are based on the same social condition with the one in the novel which takes place in dystopian London.

1.6 Significance of The Study

Hopefully, this study gives a contribution to the study of literature, especially the study which focuses on freedom in the English Language and Literature Program, Department of English Education, Indonesia University of Education.

Also, this study is significant in explaining how freedom is defined in this novel. This research is expected to give another perspective towards freedom in the post-modern era. Although freedom is indeed the rights of every human being, the practice of freedom is intersecting with morality, in terms of respecting the right and freedom of others.

1.7 Clarification of Key Terms

Existentialism is a 20th century philosophy that is centred upon the analysis of existence and the way humans find themselves existing in the world. The idea is that humans exist first and they determine their own nature or essence. In other words, existence precedes essence. Existentialist believes that people seek for their true meaning or purpose throughout life as they make their choices based on their experience, belief and outlook. As the choices they make among any other people is unique, that serves their purpose or identity in the world.

Post-colonialism is a theory that exists since around the middle of the 20th century. It develops from and mainly refers to the time after colonialism. The post-colonial theory was created as colonial countries became independent. Nowadays, aspects of post-colonialism can be found not only in sciences concerning history, literature and politics, but also in approach to culture and identity of both the countries that were colonised and the former colonial powers. However, post-colonialism can take into consideration the colonial time as well as the time after colonialism.

1.8 Organisation of The Study

This study is organized as follows:

Chapter I Introduction

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research procedures, clarification of key terms, and organization of the study.

Chapter II Literature Review

This chapter contains all of the theories and sources (articles, journals, and documents) that are related to the study. This study employs existentialism and post-colonialism theory with freedom based on those theories as the focus. These theories are used since the object of this study shows many similarities to the value of freedom according to these theories.

Chapter III Research Methodology

This chapter consists of the methodology of the study used to answer the research questions. The methodology used is document analysis method. Since this study deals with the data that appear in the word form and this study looks for the meaning that is tracked down from the presence of certain words or concepts within the text.

Chapter IV Findings and Discussions

This chapter reveals the findings of the study and discusses the findings of this study using the theories proposed in Chapter II. The findings are based on text in the novel which shows most similarities to the values of freedom according to existentialism and post-colonialism and the discussion part relates the findings with the theories and previous studies related to this study.

Chapter V Conclusion

This chapter consists of conclusion of this study and suggestions for further studies that are related to this study.