

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Bernhard Schlink inspires the writer to analyze his novel entitled “The Reader” by using the existentialism method by Jean Paul Sartre. This chapter consists of the background of study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, the significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The life cycle of people is very interesting to be a theme in study or discussion. Their life is like puzzles which must be built the best. People have power to make their life like what they want because they are the flawless human being who ever is created by God in this world. God gives two wonderful gifts to people that make them more flawless human being than the others. These gifts are called as mind and sense. God creates the mind and sense to people as godsend to be main control in their life. The mind and the sense are different, but they are completing with the others. The mind is used to think and make a plan before execution the plan. People need the sense to consider the effect of execution the plan.

The mind and the sense influence people in every step of their life such as how people make a society, how people take a decision when they are in obstacle. The mind and the sense also make people live in two positions. First is people as individual human. Second is people as human in society. As individual human, people are responsible for everything that they do and they also have rationality to establish their own destiny. As the human in society, people are able to stimulate their own development in society, their development never finish as long as they live. The development of people brings a contribution in the building of culture. The culture of people make this world is the beautiful place to live.

One result of people's cultures is literature. Michelle Alexander (2000) defines literature as the merit of a piece of writing lies in its combination of literary art and human

interest. The human interest illustrates that literature can not be separated with the people's life. The result among of them must be very close. It means that literature is born from the life of people. The result of people's culture else is some invention which are useful for the life of people. the invention is like in technology, science and philosophy. The invention is born because people research to the old invention from the previous generation of people to get the new invention. The previous generation of people create the old invention which is still not perfect. Then the next generation of people makes the old invention to be better than before.

The old inventions of philosophy also aids the fresh philosopher to develop better theories. It happens to Jean Paul Sartre as the fresh philosopher in that time. Some philosophers had written existentialism theory before him, such as, Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), Husserl (1859-1938) and Martin Heidegger (1889-1976). They influence Jean Paul Sartre's ideology of existentialism such as the reactionary stream method by Nietzsche and the phenomenological stream method by Edmund Husserl. (Spade, 1995)

The stream of philosophy by Nietzsche rebut the Hegel's philosophy in the 18th. Sartre concludes that Hegel's philosophy is the traditional philosophy which is bankrupt, there is no future in old-style philosophy. We need to do something *radically new* (Spade, 1995). The famous philosophy of Hegel is *essence precedes existence*. It means that the essence of man occur before he is born in this world. Hegel's philosophy makes Sartre realize that the new radically philosophy (existentialism) is the way to explain everything in society are not always systematize. Everyone still has his or her own individual as the main control for themselves. The phenomenological stream method by Edmund Husserl discusses the metaphysical and epistemological. (Spade,1995)

Jean Paul Sartre was born in Paris on June 20, 1905 and died on April 15, 1980. He is one of the greatest French thinkers. A polemical and witty essayist, a metaphysician of subjectivity, a political activist, a revolutionary political theorist, a humanistic novelist, a didactic playwright, his genius lies in his powers of philosophical synthesis and the genre-breaching breadth of his imagination (Priest, 2001).

He studied philosophy in Paris at The Ecole Normale Supérieure 1924-1928. On 1933-1934, He went to Germany, to the Institut français in Berlin. He had some kind of research assistantship and studied under two giants of twentieth-century Germany philosophy. They were Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger. (Spade, 1995).

After studying in Germany, Jean Paul Sartre wrote some philosophical writing and also in his writings, stresses some themes in analysis of existentialism. It can be divided in three main periods. In the first period is the Phenomenological period. He wrote *Transcendence of the Ego*, published in 1936, a novel the title is *L'Enfer*, translated as *Nausea*, published in 1938, and *L'Imaginaire* translated as *The Psychology of Imagination*, published in 1940. In the second period is the Existential period. He wrote *Being and Nothingness*, published in 1943, an excellent play, *No Exit* published in 1944, *Existentialism Is A Humanism*, an essay, published in 1946, *What Is Literature?*, published in 1948, *Saint Genet: Actor and Martyr*, published in 1952. The last period is the Marxist period. He wrote *Critique of Dialectical Reason*, published in 1960 and *The Family Idiot*, a French philosophical biography of Gustave Flaubert, published in 1971. (Spade, 1995).

Sartre as one of the great philosophical persons presents the atheist existentialism that explains the freedom which has no limitation and no things can prevent the freedom, although God. Sartre explains the existence of God which is incompatible with human freedom. God has no right for human freedom because the existence of human is unavoidable because a man is

able to create his own essence. It is like what Sartre says that Man becomes what he wills. He is responsible for his choices. (Sartre,1946).

Sartre's ideology about the atheist existentialism was got by a long contemplation. The contemplation made Sartre interested in freedom has no limitation and it self which is limited. what is it to exist? Does existence have a purpose? Is there an objective difference between right or wrong? Are we free? Are we responsible for our actions? What is the right sort of religious, political, or sexual commitment? How should we face death? (Priest, 2001)

Sartre asserts that man is nothing else but what he makes himself (Spade,1995). It means when man is born in this world, he is alone. He must do looking for his owns self to be able to define his own self. After that he can be called that he exist in this world. Finally, his own essence is able to be created by man as like what he will. The statement of Sartre becomes the foundation of existentialism which make Sartre realize that life is simple, everything is possible in this world and the distiny is the action of human beings or it is called " Existence precedes essence". Man is nothing else but what he makes himself means that human beings can live as they want, everything is in their hands. It is like Hanna's and Michael's character in *The Reader* by Bernhard Schilnk.

Bernhard Schlink is born on july 1944 in Bielefeld, Germany. He is a writer and a lawyer. It is no wonder that his literary works are almost about crime fiction because his daily activities almost happen in courtroom. As a crime fiction writer, Bernhard schlink wrote five crime novels: *The Gordian Knot*, *Self Deception*, *Self-Administered Justice*, *The Reader* and *Self Slaughter*. All of them were translated into English. Bernhard Schlink ever got several awards from his literary works. He got Glauser prize in Germany (1989), Hans Fallada Prize in Italy (1997) and Prix Laure Batallon in France (1999).

The Reader by Bernhard Schlink was published in New York 1997 in english version and also *The Reader* is a best seller novel and get ten awards in Academy Awards after

adopting into film. The novel describes a life of ex women warden in nazi era who has relationship with a young boy, her name is Hanna Schmitz. She is a diligent women who is illiterate and work as a streetcar conductor before joining as warden in Nazi era.

In that time, Hanna is older than Michael. Hanna is 36 years old and Michael is 15 years old. Here, Bernhard Schlink does not only write the controversial relationship between Hanna and Michael but also, he write about Nazi that become a big social issue in the era. Bernhard Schlink uses Hanna and Michael characters to describe all things that happen in Nazi era. Firstly, the controversial relationship between Hanna and Michael, Hanna is older than Michael. Secondly, in courtroom, as defendant of bloodbath and member of Nazi. Hanna faces her court. The last is the event after the court. The story tells the meeting of Hanna and Michael again.

One value of existentialism in the novel is human freedom in the novel dominates in some part such as having power to control the others, free sex, and commit suicide. It relates to the definition of existentialism by Sartre. Sartre argues that existentialism is based on human freedom. It means the freedom has no limitation and only is limited by its self such Sartre arguments I am condemned to exist forever beyond my essence, beyond the causes and motives of my act. I am condemned to be free (Sartre, 1992).

The example below which reflects Sartre's ideologies in the novel :

She came close to me that I could feel her breast against my back and her stomach against my behind. She was naked too. She put her arms around me, one hand on my chest and the other on my erection.(The Reader, 1997)

Based on the stament above it describes that they make love without being married. It shows that what they want, no one can influence their choices except him/herself means that he/she is freedom. The choices make people realize that their existence occur after they are in the world. They have no limitation until they face death

The Reader is a crime fiction novel. Many events in Nazi era are grown, although it becomes a controvesial literary work in the time but The reader is best seller novel and get some award. Many writers have taken this novel to be a source of data in their thesis. They are Thomas from Santa Dharma University in 2012. The Reader is used by him to be the source of data. He has analysed the meaning of Hanna's decision to commite suicide in The Reader. He has used some theory to find the meaning of Hanna's decision to commite suicide such the characterization of the character and the psychoanalytical psychology. Angelina from the University of Yogyakarta in 2015. She has used The Reader to be her source of data. She has analysed Kepribadian Michael Berg dalam roman Der Vorleser using psikologi sastra. This study is the first study about Existentialism in The Reader using Jean Paul Sartre theory. This study is different from the previous studies. This study analyses two characters in the novel which reflect the existentialism.

The writer uses The Reader as the source of data to analyse the values of existentialism which is reflected by Hanna and Michael's character. Their life mirror freedom. They always do what they want to do. It is like what with Sartre says that man is freedom. Man becomes what he wills. He is responsible for his choices. (Sartre, 1946). Their existence is not fixed or unchangeable. The writer also analyzes being for it self that is reflected by Hanna's and Michael's characters.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problems

1. What are the values of Sartre's existentialism in Hanna's and Michael's character found in the novel?
2. How does Hanna's and Michael's characters reflect the characteristic of being for itsef of Sartre's existentialism in the novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To explain Hanna's and Michael's characters which reflect the Sartre's existentialism in the novel.
2. To explain how Hanna's and Michael's characters reflect the characteristic of being for itself of Sartre's existentialism in the novel.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This research is expected to provide the theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this study is going to help the other researchers when they are going to analyze this theory. This study is going to give new knowledge about the value of Sartre's existentialism theory and the characteristic of being for itself of Sartre's existentialism. This study is going to be the first step of writers to explore the theory in other sources by using this theory. Practically, this study will make everyone aware that freedom is not a purpose in life but the freedom is the way to find the limitation and the limitation of freedom is its self. It can be known with existentialism theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research discusses the values of existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre in *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink. The scope of this research is about the existential theory. It is used to find the values of existentialism in *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink. This research is limited in Hanna and Michael's characters representing the existentialism's theory.