

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is very important to study our life after linguistics. Linguistics is used to communicate and make relationship with other persons. Literature is used to express and communicate thought, feeling, and attitude toward life through a written language. Literature relates with linguistics in our life. Rees (1973:2) in *English Literature: An Introduction for Foreign Reader* says, "Literature is writing which express and communicates thought, feeling, and attitude toward life." According to Hudson (1913:10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*, "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life." It examines that literature is an important work, which men can see in our life. They have thought and felt about the beauty of literature. It is imagination through song, poetry, read, or write. It creates literature in our daily life, but it is not easy as our imagination. We must be more detail in studying literature.

Furthermore, literature has form of literary work. They are poems, plays, novels, and short stories. For example, novel is one of interest's literary works. The most people read it in the world. We will increase experience of life, especially in love and religious for God. People usually enjoy reading a novel. It may entertain the readers.

Jones (1968:1) states that, "Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination." We can study literary

work, especially English novel. We need a thorough responsive and comprehensive reading. It will arise our feeling, thought, and imagination. Besides, we can also release thought, idea, opinion, experience, or even imagination in words.

The study of English literature causes pleasures for us. We must study it from some periods. They are the Old English, the Middle English, the Renaissance, the Elizabethan, the Puritan, the Restoration, the Classic, the Romantic, and the Victorian. By studying English literature period, we know literary figure in her or his period. We also know her or his biography and literary works.

In this thesis, the writer feels that literature is very important to study, especially novel. In *An Outline of Literature*, Jones (1968:80) says, "Novel is a long story written in prose, but because it is long, it differs from a short story in other ways too." It tells about novel that is different from short story. According to Kennedy (1983:180) in *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*, "Novel is a book length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life." Kettle (1961:12) in *An Introduction to the English Novel* says, "A novel is a living thing, all one and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is something of the other parts." They tell about the definition of novel. It means that many people like reading novel. We will increase experience in our life with reading novel and it is part of life.

Anyone can create the sense. We cannot separate from its part. Then we read novel to novel during our lifetime.

The writer chooses a novel entitled *Killer in Silk*. The novel is A Gold Medal Original. It is written by H. Vernor Dixon. It was published in 1956. He uses the most familiar language, which is easy to be understood. The novel is in the modern period. The Writer tries to describe about Existentialism on the Death in H. Vernor Dixon's *Killer in Silk*. The writer chooses this novel, because Dixon has a modern imagination suitable nowadays. The writer likes adventure and she has modern thinking. It is fit for her age. Besides, his novel *Killer in Silk* reflects the life, which is contrary to God. The writer gets an experience and important message from the author of the story. She wants to know the existentialism's problems, the influences, and resolution it, which happens for the main character.

1.2 The Statements of the Problem

The problems are to answer the following question:

1. What are the existentialism's problems on the death in *Killer in Silk*?
2. What are the existentialism's influences on the death in *Killer in Silk*?
3. How does the resolution of main character's existentialism on the death in *Killer in Silk*?

1.3 The Limitation of the Study

In order to avoid the discussion too wide, the writer limits the analysis. The writer limits the scope of discussion on existentialism's problems on the death in

the novel, the influences of existentialism toward main character, and the resolution of main character's existentialism. However, the other aspects support the aspect of philosophy.

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the existentialism's problems on the death in *Killer in Silk*.
2. To know the existentialism's influences on the death in *Killer in Silk*.
3. To get clear explanation about the resolution of main character's existentialism on the death in *Killer in Silk*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study is a significant reference for other researchers doing further research on existentialism because it can become the normative implication of other study. Besides, the readers may take the advantage of the result of this study to achieve a maximum level understanding of the death in the novel.