

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contextualizes the fundamental thing of this research. The researcher conveys the reason and other things for analyzing “*Existence and Being-for-others in Teacher Man*”. Researcher mentions some sub-chapters in this chapter, those are background of this research, statement of the problem, objective of research, significance of research, and the last is scope and limitation of this research.

1.1 Background of the Research

As one of God’s creatures, humans determine their life for showing their existence in this world. In showing their existence, human generally will conduct what they believe will be good for them. For the example, it happens when human obeys their parent’s rule and avoid the forbidden. They assume by obeying parent’s rule will lead them into a good human. Sartre’s statement as quoted in *Existentialism* written by Flynn that Individuals are not just the experiences of their life because individuals determine the meaning of these experiences about themselves (Flynn, 2006:57). Sartre’s statement is relevant with how humans choose their strong decision to obey parent’s rule in order to acknowledge their existence as a good human that it also includes as existentialism.

In humans’ life, they show their existence freely without any doubt in doing humans’ behavior that stands as the existence. Sometimes, human has their limit in showing their existence because of the others perspective. It depends on the human decision whether they follow others’ perspective or not. It is in line with theory that said human existence which is myself assumes its own being by understanding it. This understanding is mine. I am, then, first of all, a being who more or less obscurely understands his reality as a man, which means that I make myself a man by understanding myself as such (2002:9). For the example, Kyai Ahmad Dahlan who has strong decision toward his strong believe like when he determines to follow modern style (using chairs, tables, etc) for teaching his students in his era. He is a founder of Muhammadiyah which is the big Islamic organization in Indonesia (Panigoro, 2011). Even if there are a lot of people who

do not agree with his decision but he still believes to do it because he wants to get the acknowledgment from his environment. How the way of Kyai Ahmad Dahlan in having strong decision which is included in his existence. Indeed, in spite of other people see him as someone who has uncommon idea but he fixes it by consistent with his strong decision then nowadays the existence of Kyai Ahmad Dahlan is still admired. Then, his environment follow his idea, and it proves that the existence of Kyai Ahmad Dahlan happens because of the perspective of others.

Existentialism that consist of existence and being-for-others is used as main theory in this research. It uses, because individuals commonly will face the condition when they have to choose who or what they will be and the responses of their decision. It shows by Giles that claimed an ideology which is meant to be had practical consequences in our day-to-day lives (1999:8). Indeed, it similar with what the researcher that would like to describe in this research. In definitely showing the reason why this research use existentialism as main theory. It is relevant with theory that said human are in the world by a relationship of being in which, paradoxically, the subject is their body, their world, and their situation, by a sort of exchange (2006:73). Therefore, existentialism stands as the big umbrella of the aspects that use in this research.

The researcher uses two aspects in existentialism that consists of existence and being for-others. It applies, because the phenomenon of existence and being-for-other is generally faced by society. Existence and being-for-other happens consciously in personal. For the example, whether teacher follows curriculum or not and what teacher strongly believe on his decision is one of the example of existence. It is in line with the quotation below:

"Choice is necessary to existence and is in reality the choice of self. Existential choice, or decision, or engagement, determines the content of the personality, and posit's one own good or evil" (Sarte, 2007:85).

Then the other teachers who has different perspective with the decision includes in the being for-others. According to Sarte, what you are as the object of someone else's consciousness (2007:9). Indeed, existentialism (existence and being-for-others) will convenient with the memoir that also analyzed in this research.

The memoir that analyzed in this research is *Teacher Man* (2005). It is written by Frank McCourt as well-known teacher in New York and America. *Teacher Man* consists of how the way new teacher faces his students who are so critical. In Frank's memoir also draws a man who plays as teacher for finding his voice in his classroom because he does not stay in a school for more than a year but he also moves to another school such as in New York city high schools and university which each school has different rules, colleague characters, student characters and etc (2005). Thus, the main character illustrates as a teacher who is probably facing similar condition with other teachers in reality. The problems that happen in Kyai Ahmad Dahlan era and other teacher in modern era can be seen in *Teacher man* written by Frank McCourt.

In *Teacher Man*, it does not only illustrate main character's teaching career but also their private life starts from his childhood. The researcher is enthusiast in analyzing *Teacher man*, because this memoir is simple and deep. Therefore it is worth analyzed. This memoir includes in the "irresistible" book as the first in New York times bestseller. This memoir also focuses on main character which plays as the writer of the autobiographical storytelling. Thus, the researcher adopts *Teacher man* in conducting this research because of some reasons that contextualized in previous sentences.

Frank McCourt stands as the writer of his memoir and as the main character in *Teacher Man*. He wrote it four years before he died. His aim to write his memoir is immediate tribute for teachers around the world then it makes researcher is curious in analyzing him as main character and the writer of his memoir. He wrote *Teacher Man* based on his experience of teaching career for about thirty years taught in New York City high schools. In publishing *Teacher Man*, he awarded as the influential Ellis Island Family Heritage Award for exemplary maintenance in the field of arts and the united federation of teachers John Dewey Award for outstanding in education (2018).

Before *Teacher Man* published, Frank had written two memoirs they are *Angela's Ashes* as his first book which awarded as the Pulitzer Prize, etc and *Tis'* that published in 2006 same as *Teacher Man*. In *Teacher Man*, he draws as a good educator that shows in his first career of teaching such as he determine to follow

what he think his thought will be good for making his students respect him and easy to grasp his material which is literature such novel, poem, etc. But, he has to face the rule in his school and how his students respond toward Frank's decision in his teaching. Therefore, both the story in *Teacher Man* and its' main character appropriates with the theory existentialism. Thus, this research aimed at analyzing existence and being-for-others on Frank McCourt's teaching career as the main character and writer of *Teacher Man*.

1.2 The Statement of The Problems

On the underlying of the previous contextualization of the background of this research, the researcher formulates two questions of this research, they are:

- 1.2.1 How is Frank McCourt's existence portrayed into his teaching career?
- 1.2.2 Why does Frank McCourt's environment as being for-others influence the Frank McCourt's existence in *Teacher Man*?

1.3 The Objectives of this research

In conducting this research, the researcher has two purposes based on the questions of this research, those are:

- 1.3.1 To describe Frank McCourt's existence portrayed into his teaching career.
- 1.3.2 To analyze Frank McCourt's environment as being for-others influence Frank McCourt's existence in *Teacher Man*.

1.4 Significances of the Research

The researcher has the biggest hope toward this research in better understanding with what researcher has already conveyed in this research. By way of this research, hopefully for the readers will get new knowledge and understanding in human condition toward this research and they will be more sensitive in everything happen in their life then they grasp what they should conduct into their life. The researcher wishes that this research will be beneficial in education field as same as Frank's wish when he wrote *Teacher Man*. Especially for teachers, they may see the reference that as how Frank in determining his decision in his classroom only for creating good

understanding about his material and good behavior of his students. For students, they will receive how they should behave with their teachers and what actually the relation that create a good atmosphere in the classroom. And the researcher hopes this research will give university students of English department valuable knowledge toward this research like the memoir and the literary theories that uses in this research. Thus, the researcher dreams that this research will be beneficial for every field.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Scope of this research is the memoir written by Frank McCourt under the title *Teacher Man* which is only analyzing the main character and his colleagues or even his students in responding the main character. For the limitation of this research is the existence and being-for-others stands as main theories in analyzing main character. Therefore, the researcher does not want to out of topics and it will be make the reader is easier in reading and understanding this research.