

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In nineteenth century, World War II had been executed by some countries in Europe and Africa while Germany acquired a victory in various domain as those continents. At that time, people who were not from Germany prayed and made group in order to bore down Germany, but that objective was failed. Despite those people made a group, Germany still got a victory so people broke from a group and did not believe that a man existed in a group but concentrated as individual man. At that time, the German job of France reinforced the existential that impinges on liberty, responsibility and demise (Reynolds, 2006: 1). That belief about human existence had become a philosophy that was carried by some philosophers, it called as Existentialism.

Reynolds said that existentialism permitted a larger man's section to own the grip of what it meant tentatively and a larger grip better than might have been achieved through the occasion vague philosophy of Jean Paul Sartre, Heidegger, Merleu, Ponty and de Beauvoir (2006: 1-2). It means that existentialism is brought by some philosophers in previous statement. But According to Gardner (2009: 6), "The term existentialism is associated more closely with Sartre than with any

other thinker, and in 1945 at any rate, Sartre endorsed its application to his philosophy". It proves that Sartre was the main philosopher or thinker who carries a doctrine of existentialism that deal with human existence, namely being and non-being or nothingness.

Being and non-being or nothingness are the concepts of existence to explain the basis tendency of human existence. Being is a format of human existence which refers to a human subjectness. Sartre in Barnes' book (1953: xiv) said that being is the appearance indicates to the total sequence of appearances and not to a concealed reality which would drain to itself. It means that human presents by making him visible just like conscious subject, be active, and can be processed without concealing a reality. Meanwhile, non-being or nothingness is a format of human existence which refers to a human objectness. The sorts of human objectness are death, the necessity to make a choice and bear a responsibility, isolated, and so on. Sartre in Barnes' book states, "For negation is a refusal of existence" (1953: 11). It means, in nothingness, human conducts a negation on his existence and cannot be processed. Nothingness has appeared inside a novel entitled *The Metamorphosis* that has been read by researcher.

The Metamorphosis is a novel which has been written by Franz Kafka in 1912, and published in 1915 (European Graduate School, Articles 2012). The story starts with a travelling salesman, Gregor who cannot cope and endure his life in modern society. The salesman felt suppressed with his position as a first son who carried on his shoulder of his family's finance, one of the financial problems was his parents' debts. He wanted a freedom to avoid that responsibility for his family by regarding as a nothingness position. Because he did not think to

exist, could not choose and bear a responsibility, and his life was not meaningful. With that result, he felt to change to an insect which was confined in a cage, it was actually his own room. He could not go everywhere even meet and gather with her family, so he was isolated by his family.

The researcher prefers to choose *The Metamorphosis* because the title is very interesting to read. It talks about the transformation in the main character, Gregor. Beside that, it includes many issues of non-being or nothingness that is experienced through the characterization of the main character. Substantively, the language which is used in this novel is German language, but it has been translated into English by Ian Johnston. So, it is easier for the researcher in reading and understanding this novel. Meanwhile, there has not been a previous researcher who took this novel as an object of research that analyzes about “nothingness”. The last point that the story reflects the author’s life of this novel, namely Franz Kafka.

Franz Kafka is the German language author of novels and short stories who was born on 3 July 1883 in Prague, Bohemia, Austria-Hungary. He died on 3 June 1924 in Klostemeuburg, Lower Austria (Alt, 2005). Furthermore, in the middle of his legal education, he wrote some short stories and novels to fill his spare time. The important point that Franz Kafka is one of the most important and influential fiction writer. He is a novelist and writer of short stories whose works come to be regarded as one of major achievements of twentieth century literature, just like *The Metamorphosis* is one of his most interesting and memorable work (Stephens, 2010).

The researcher prefers to choose Kafka's work because several of his works are related with his experience of life, one of them is *The Metamorphosis*. Franz Kafka depicted his views in this story by determining a part of the new philosophy. He applied peculiar incident to describe his beliefs about existentialism. So he used Gregor's tragic transformation to assert the reasons that existentialist ideas were so important.

Therefore, the explanation above are some reasons that have been created by the researcher to contribute the issue of nothingness that will be discussed further in this thesis. The title of this thesis is "Portrait of Nothingness Through The Characterization Of Gregor In Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*".

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher has two problems to be discussed in following research:

- 1.2.1 How is the characterization shown from Gregor in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*?
- 1.2.2 How does Gregor's characterization represent nothingness in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the statements of the problem above, the researcher takes some common objectives of the study which are mentioned below:

- 1.3.1 To describe the characterization of Gregor in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*.

1.3.2 To analyze Gregor's representation of nothingness in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The researcher expects that this research can give some benefits as below:

1.4.1 This research can help to contribute some ideas for development of literature as comprehending and analyzing novel.

1.4.2 It can be a reference for the next researcher with other relevant objects.

1.4.3 This research can be used by English teacher as the material of study.

1.4.4 The result of this research can be applied some English lecturers as a teaching material for English students which is appropriate with the curriculum.

1.4.5 The researcher wants to explore the competent in writing of research and makes the reader interesting to read this research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher only focuses on *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. Furthermore, the researcher discusses the existentialism in a novel of *The Metamorphosis* which is written by Franz Kafka. In order to avoid the extension of discussion, then the researcher only limits the discussion on nothingness concept which is represented by Gregor as the main character in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*.