CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

“But man is not made for defeat’ he said.
A man can be destroyed, but not defeated”
(Ernest Miller Hemingway in his novel, The Old Man and the Sea/1966:93)

I.1 BACKGROUND OF ANALYSIS

Literature is the collection of ideas. “Literature is thought of as form of philosophy, as ‘ideas’ wrapped in form; and it is analyzed to yield a ‘leading ideas’.” (Wellek/1962:110) It conveys the ideas of author in form of writing and the ideas contain message for readers. In case of leading ideas, it will survive for centuries as global universal value.

Greibstein (1968:161) states that ideas in literature become as important as its form and style of writing. Moreover, the form and writing style of a literature is particularly determined by its ideas. It means there is no great literature, being created in low trivial ideas. Literature is a true essential activity. No great literary work with a low message.

Ernest Hemingway’s novel The Old Man and the Sea is one of the great literary works. It also contains ideas which lead us to a message. For sure, it delivers the message of human existence. This message refers to an understanding of the real essence of human beings, in aspects of life, such as social and economics life. Man, by its nature, has the ability to survive in any circumstances. Man can be destroyed, but can’t be defeated. This term becomes a philosophical idea which is known as human existence.

Human existence is the fact or state of continued being of human life. Muzairi (2002:46) states that there are several characteristics of human existence.
They are subjectivity, the conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, humanity and faith. Subjectivity is judgement based on individual personal impressions and feeling. Realizing the subjectivity, it will take the human being into the conscious being in the world. Contingency is the effective experience of human being in actual world. The anti materialism is a doctrine which refuses the judgement based on materialistic values only. The anti materialism will be resulted by achieving the human contingency. While, humanity and faith is the commitment of human being towards the values of life. These characteristics reflect the human existence.

As Hemingway’s idea about human existence is genuinely uplifting, Santiago is performed as the main character of the novel. Santiago is the representation of human being who is faced to the fact of the life which is the fact of human pursuit of existence. Santiago has the characteristics which represent the characteristics of human existence. The characteristics of human existence are fulfilled by Santiago by process of life, not only as fisherman but real man. Wholly, Santiago becomes an everyman - an archetypal representation of human being.

The acceptance of Santiago towards the natural order and cycle of life proves the subjectivity and his conscious being in the world. The enduring of Santiago in struggling against nature proclaims contingency and its result reveals the truth of anti materialism. While his success in passing on the values of humanity and faith to the next generation, Manolin as Santiago’s fishing companion; proves the success of passing his existence. In short, Santiago fulfills all of these qualities. Santiago’s proclaim of existence is the representation of
human existence. This is the most emphasized message of the novel, which is the real essence of human existence.

Since there is relationship between the literature and ideas, the writer feels the importance of making a further analysis about human existence. The Old Man and the Sea provides a great inspiring message which reveals the existence of human being. Fundamentally, this becomes the main reason of choosing this thesis as entitled; Human Existence as Reflected in Ernest Hemingway’s The Old Man and the Sea.

1.2 SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

There are a lot of discussions in applying the human existence. Escaping an ambiguous analysis, it is important to make a clear limitation about human existence. The focus of analysis will be limited to the characteristics of human existence in Santiago’s life. The characteristics are his subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, humanity and faith. The analysis will prove Santiago’s existence, which reflects the human existence.

1.3 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Santiago is the main character of the novel. He has characteristics of human existence. The characteristics are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, humanity and faith. Santiago fulfills all of these qualities. Santiago’s proclaim of existence is the representation of human existence.

The analysis of the thesis will be conducted by explaining the problem below. These are the questions to discuss:
1. How does the subjectivity of Santiago makes him unique from society show human existence?

2. How does the conscious of Santiago in the world makes him alienated declare human existence?

3. How does the contingency of old man Santiago in struggling and enduring against nature reflect human existence?

4. How does the sense of anti materialism of Santiago among society clarify human existence?

5. How does the success of Santiago in transferring values of humanity to Manolin indicate human existence?

6. How does the success of Santiago in transferring values of faith to Manolin relate to human existence?

1.4 OBJECTIVE OF ANALYSIS

The analysis is intended to answer the problem of the thesis. They are:

1. To explain the subjectivity of Santiago which shows human existence.

2. To describe the conscious of Santiago among society which declares human existence.

3. To prove the contingency of Santiago in struggling and enduring against nature which reflects human existence.

4. To find out Santiago’s anti materialism as result of struggling and enduring against nature which clarifies human existence.

5. To indicate the success of Santiago in transferring the values of humanity to Manolin as the success of human existence.
6. To relate the success of Santiago in transferring the values of faith to Manolin as the success of human existence.

I.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF ANALYSIS

There are significances in accomplishing this thesis. The first is theoretical. This thesis is expected to enrich the study about literature, especially Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*. It is expected to be a source of information in understanding literature in field of knowledge. The second is practical. This thesis is expected to make the readers comprehend in understanding the literature as inspiring ideas. Hopefully, by analyzing this novel, it will be a substantive knowledge for readers in applying the message of this literature, which is the message of human existence. And it is genuinely expected; as stepping stone for readers in discussing a further analysis about human existence.

I.6 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

There are a lot of discussions on Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*, since it is regarded as an exist literature. Some of them are notes and commentaries. One of the commentaries is made by Muzairi (2002) on his book: *Eksistensialisme Jean Paul Sartre*. Another is made by Carey Gary (1973) on his book: *The Old Man and the Sea Notes: Critical Commentaries*.

Muzairi states that there are several characteristics of human existence which are subjectivity, the conscious being in the world, contingency, anti materialism, humanity and faith. These characteristics represent the characteristics of human being, who stand in existence. The proclaim of these characteristics means proclaim of human existence.
While Carey Gary notes that human existence is resulted by the process. By a long hard suffering process, Santiago wins his grandeur *skeleton of fish* and declares his existence among society.

Santiago, the old fisherman, though old, still dares to try, persists in doing the very best he can- and succeeds only to lose. He loses the battle with the sharks and his prize fish, Marlin, but he wins a victory for himself because he knows that he had fought well and that he has the courage to try again. (Gary/1973:10)

According to Carey, Santiago is behaving perfectly while catching and losing his great fish. Santiago expresses most effectively Hemingway’s belief that what counts most in human existence is dignity and courage with which the individual conducts him in the process of life in the world.

In addition, the writer also reviews former thesis researches in which relate to the study of human existence. The researches are made by Wenina (2005) in her thesis: *Existentialism in Saul Bellow’s Henderson the Rain King* and Lidia Dumaria’s thesis (2005): *A Comparative Analysis of Theme between Ernest Hemingway’s The Old Man and the Sea and Motinggo Boesje’s Tidak Menyerah*. Both of these theses are discussing the application of human existence in literary work.

### 1.7 THEORETICAL APPROACH

In this thesis, the writer is using the expressive approach. This approach means that literature is also the expression of author’s ideas about life. It means, the literature concerns the existence of author as creator. The literature is expressing ideas of author who is composing the sophisticated thought and feeling into form of writing.
In Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea*, it represents the idea of author as creator. Furthermore, it also reveals the perspective of Hemingway in viewing life. Hemingway expresses his idea about human existence by performing Santiago as the main character of the novel. The way of Hemingway’s expressing ideas is the representation of his perspective about life which is formulated by a complex thinking, experiences and his belief in life. All of these are creating the idea of human existence which is reflected in his novel: *The Old Man and the Sea*. 