1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Zainuddin (1992:99) says that literature is an art work that is prohibited by the standard of literature language using style language and interesting story telling. A literary work brings us to the world of dreams and takes us away from reality. It has to be contrasted with a literary work that needs our interpretation. Literature is a personal expression of feeling including, experience, idea, motivation, confidence in the concrete description by using language. Sudjiman (1984:53) says, novel is a long prose fiction by presenting figures and displays a series of events and setting. As a work of fiction, novel offers a world, a world of life idealized models, an imaginary world, which was built through the intrinsic elements such as events, plot, character and characterization, backgrounds, viewpoints, and others.

Although it is an imagination, the problem that is raised from a novel is life problems such as happiness, disappointment, betrayal, honesty and struggles of life. Talking about the struggle of life, the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is one of the novels that can provide great inspiration to everyone about what it means a struggle of life and existence itself a woman. Francie Nolan, who is the main character in the story, is a girl who fight and existence in pursuit of her dream to get an education and escape from the trap of poverty experienced by families even the condition of her father that is Johnny Nolan, who always drink because depressed with a very poor family conditions coupled with the desire of her
beloved daughter who wants to get education properly. This makes him stress and always drink and eventually die. Yet with all the efforts and struggles she did, Francie manage to go out of the settlement Brooklyn and continue her studies at a distance of Brooklyn. And finally she manage to finish her studies and got a job as a famous writer.

Gunawan (1993: 101) says that a struggle must be supported by a number of values and a set of norms that live in the community. The issue of education and equality of women is the nature of women's struggles. The struggle never be separated from the social structures that support it. The struggles of women do not just stop at the material struggle but the struggle to gain selfexistence. Education is one way to gain recognition for herself and others. And to get the education needed a big struggle.

Based on the description above, the writer chooses novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* as an object of research because he is very interested of the woman in that novel, that is Francie Nolan. Francie Nolan is a great girl, she is a big dreamer although she knows that is impossible to make all her dreams came true but she fight. She is a hard worker. She never give up about her life. She loves her family so much. She loves her father although her father makes her dissappointed by drinking all the time. She does not care about what are people saying about her father, the only thing that she know is her father loves them too. Francie Nolan is wonderful just the way she is. Yet before Francie, her mother Katie Nolan is a great woman too who fight hardly for her family. She does not think about her husband, Johnny Nolan who always drink and do not responsible to fullfill their
daily needs. This case make Katie Nolan being a hard worker even her husband refuse her to work.

All the characteristics of Katie Nolan there was in Francie Nolan. She had the character of her Mom. These two characters made the author interested to analyze this novel. Yet the author decided to analyze only about Francie Nolan. It causes this novel talks about a long journey of Francie Nolan to get her dreams in fighting her education and about the struggles of her Mom just a glancing flash back. Beside that this novel tells the formidable figure fighting for her dream woman. Beside that the knowledge of the writer, the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* written by Betty Smith is the object of the research that has not been analyzed with existence and feminism approach, both are ways to find the existence of female characters themselves, so that the research is interesting to study.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background mentioned above, several problems are formulated as follow:

a. What are the Francie’s problems in the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*?

b. How did Francie’s efforts in fighting for her dreams and existence?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The writer chooses a novel to her topic of her study. There are many kinds of novels however, the writer is more interested in Betty Smith’s novel, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.*
This paper will discuss about the main character, namely Francie Nolan. This study is primarily taken within the scope of studying the struggle of Francie Nolan for getting her dreams and how she can fight her existence in order to make the discussion more specific. For analyzing this paper, author uses the theory of literature. Based on the theory of literature, there are two elements that is used in literature, they are intrinsic elements and entrinsic elements. In this paper, author only used one element, that is intrinsic element. Intrinsic elements is an element builds the literature and include of character, characterization, setting, plot, theme and moral messages. This six elements can be able to build great story of the main character but in this paper, the author limit the element by using four elements that concern to the title of this paper analyzed. The fourth elements are character, characterizations, theme and moral messages.

1.4 Objective of the study

In accordance with the background and the formulation of the problem above, the writer can formulate the goals to be achieved in this study are:

a. To find out the problems of Francie Nolan in the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.

b. To find out the efforts of Francie Nolan to fight her dreams and her existences.

1.5 Significance of the study

The result of this paper is expected to enrich the readers’s knowledge about the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* as well as learning a lesson about women in society. Firstly, the significance of this study is to give readers an insight and exploration about the social oppression to the main character in the
novel and the struggle of the main character to live her life. Secondly, through this research the writer hopes that the readers will be more aware of how certain roles or lives in certain society is very hard to achieve by women in a world that is already a determined social construction of it. A scientific study should provide theoretical and practical benefits, so the tested quality of research conducted by researchers. The theoretical benefits of this research are expected to add the studies in the field of literature, especially the analysis of existentialist feminism. Practical benefits of this research can raise awareness about the existence of women who want freedom and women's efforts to gain equality of life.