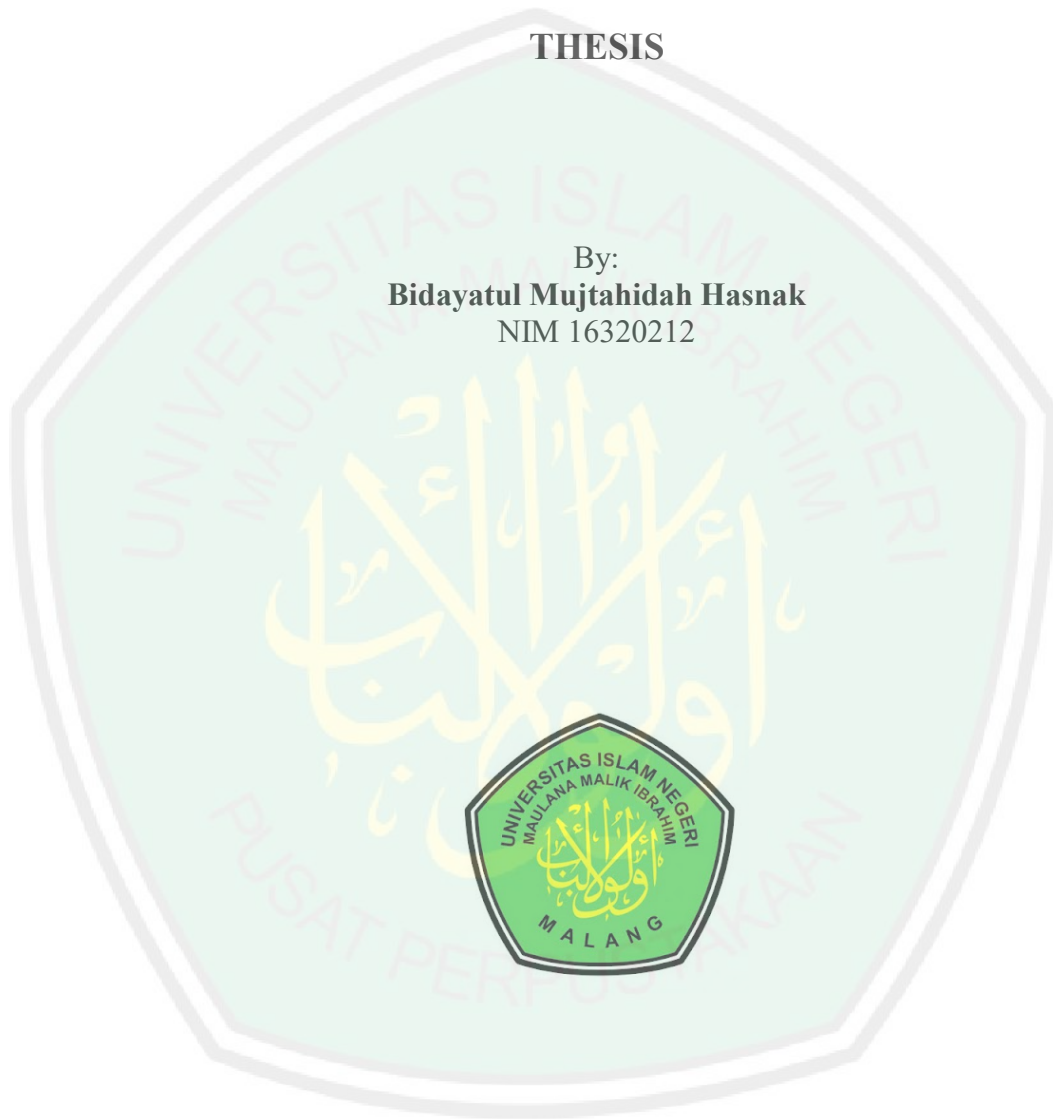


**SILVER BLACKTHORN'S EXISTENCE  
IN KERRY WILKINSON'S *RECKONING* (2014)**

**THESIS**

By:  
**Bidayatul Mujtahidah Hasnak**  
NIM 16320212



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM  
MALANG  
2020**

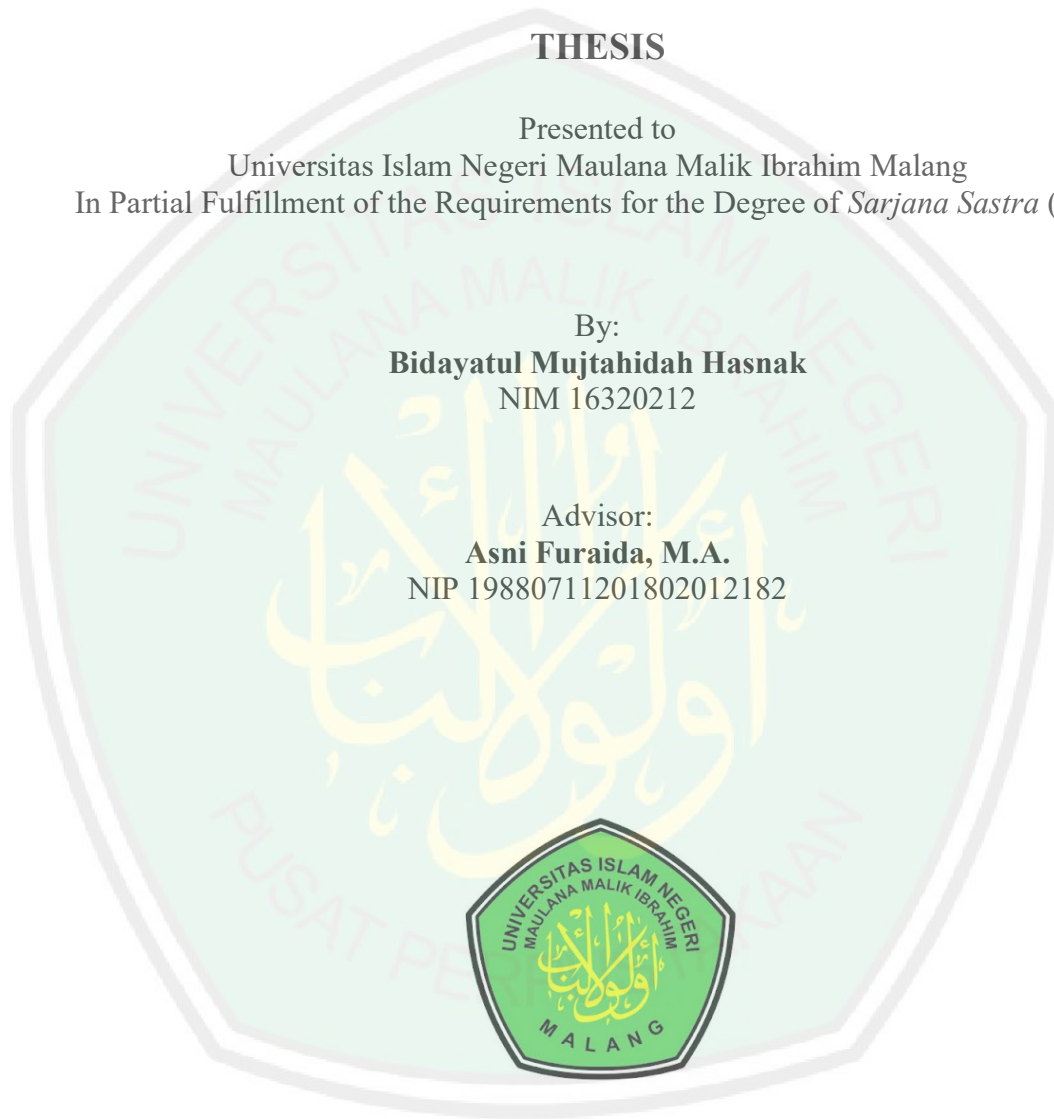
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**THESIS**

Presented to  
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.)

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**MALANG**  
**2020**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled **Silver Blackthorn's Existence in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning* (2014)** is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the preferences. Furthermore, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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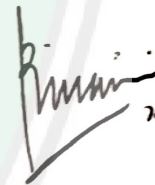
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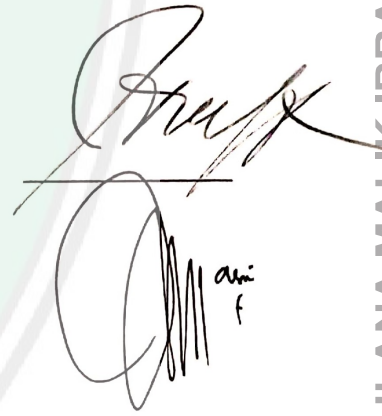
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## MOTTO

Man is condemned to be free.

Because once thrown into the world,

He is responsible for everything he does.

It is up to you to give [life] a meaning.

(Jean Paul Sartre)



## DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved father who passed away in 2011, Masduki. Also, I dedicate this thesis to my lovely mother, Triasih Esti Nugraheni and my one and only sibling that I have, Isna Raisa. This little family gives me the roots to stand high and strong. May Allah bless us all.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All praises to Allah SWT, who has given His mercy and blessings from all periods of my life, including this *sarjana* study journey. Blessing and salutation may be upon our prophet Muhammad SAW who has been a good figure in the overall of our life.

My deepest gratitude goes to my academic advisor Mr. Miftahul Huda, M.Pd for being like a father who gave his endless love, commitment, encouragement, and supervision during my study. During the process of working on this thesis, he also had provided me clear direction, guidance, and suggestions. Also, I would like to say thank you to Mom Asni Furaida, M.A who always reminds me and gave me evaluations, suggestions and also motivations during working on my thesis. Moreover, I profoundly thank the examiners whose questions, clarifications, and suggestions have been improving the quality of my thesis.

I am also honored to have my mom and family for giving me the chance to prove and improve myself through all my life. I would also thank my friends who work under the same advisor, Alista, who have fought together and supported each other so I can finalize this thesis. Also, thanks to Erly and Intan who always be my support systems as well as shed my tears, listen to my complaints and become my heavenly bliss. Sincere thanks and apologies to my friends: Lia, Sasa, Husna, Ipik, Ayu, Caca, Cori, Afi, Silvi, Bang tan, and some other name that I cannot mention for providing me laughter and support.



Lastly, I realize that this thesis has some weaknesses and imperfections. Thus, critical comments and constructive suggestions are welcomed for the better of my future studies.

Malang, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Bidayatul Mujtahidah

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## ABSTRACT

**Hasnak, Bidayatul Mujtahidah** (2020) *Silver Blackthorn's Existence in Kerry Wilkinson's Reckoning (2014)*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.  
Advisor: Asni Furaida, M.A.

Key Words: Existence, Existentialism, Freedom.

---

Human beings in the universe are created differently from the other creatures. They are given the ability to realize the essence of their life. The essence is created by existence, while human nature is a product of existence. This research aims to find the characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning* and Silver's existence. Also, this study is expected to persuade reader awareness about existentialism and supposed to realize their existence. This research is literary criticism that used existentialism theory to engage with the research questions. The researcher answered the research question by employing Sartre's characteristics of existentialism and facticity in the light of existentialism.

The primary data of this research are all of the word, phrase, and sentence of the main character named Silver Blackthorn, which contained the characteristics of existentialism and existence that appeared in one of the Kerry Wilkinson' Silver Blackthorn's trilogy, *Reckoning*. In this study, the researcher collects the data by taking the following steps. First, the researcher reads the *Reckoning* novel in detail. Highlighting and collecting the data is the second step. The researcher only collected data that shows the characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn. Then, analyzing how the existence of Silver Blackthorn as the main character in *Reckoning* by considering the facticity. And finally, conclude.

The result of this research shows that from six characteristic of existentialism, there are five characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn, the major female character in this novel. The first is subjectivity. The second is conscious being in the world. The third is contingency. The fourth is anti-materialism. The fifth is humanity. However, the researcher has not found the data about faith as one of the characteristics of existentialism. However, Silver Blackthorn's freedom in the novel is restricted and it threatens her existence. It is because Silver faced some facticity in her condition. There are five facticities that Silver faced. The first is place. The second is past. The third is environment. The fourth is fellowmen. The fifth is death. Furthermore, as a human being, Silver has some characteristics of existentialism in herself. The facticity that cannot be eliminated may limit her freedom. However, Silver tries to gain her freedom by not giving up on the facticity. Besides, she uses some facticity to be her strength.

## ABSTRAK

**Hasnak, Bidayatul Mujtahidah (2020) *Eksistensi Silver Blackthorn dalam novel Reckoning Kerry Wilkinson (2014)*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.**  
Pembimbing: Asni Furaida, M.A.

Kata Kunci: Eksistensi, Eksistensialisme, Kebebasan.

---

Manusia di alam semesta diciptakan berbeda dari makhluk yang lainnya. Mereka diberi kemampuan untuk mewujudkan esensi kehidupan mereka. Esensi diciptakan dari eksistensi, sedangkan manusia itu sendiri merupakan produk dari eksistensi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan karakteristik eksistensialisme yang terdapat pada Silver Blackthorn sebagai karakter utama dalam *Reckoning* dan eksistensi Silver di dalam novel. Penelitian ini juga diharapkan meningkatkan kesadaran pembaca tentang teori eksistensialisme dan mendorong untuk menyadari eksistensinya. Penelitian ini adalah kritik sastra yang menggunakan teori eksistensialisme. Peneliti menjawab rumusan masalah dengan menggunakan karakteristik eksistensialisme dan faktisitas Sartre sebagai bagian dari teori eksistensialisme.

Data primer dari penelitian ini adalah semua kata, frasa, dan kalimat dari karakter utama bernama Silver Blackthorn, yang berisi karakteristik eksistensialisme dan eksistensinya dalam salah satu trilogi karya Kerry Wilkinson, *Reckoning*. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti mengumpulkan data dengan mengambil langkah-langkah berikut. Pertama, peneliti membaca novel *Reckoning* dengan seksama. Langkah kedua ialah menggaris bawahi dan mengumpulkan data. Disini, peneliti hanya mengumpulkan data yang menunjukkan karakteristik eksistensialisme yang terdapat pada karakter Silver Blackthorn. Kemudian, menganalisa bagaimana eksistensi Silver Blackthorn sebagai karakter utama dalam *Reckoning* dengan mempertimbangan faktisitas. Dan akhirnya, mengambil kesimpulan.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dari enam karakteristik eksistensialisme, terdapat lima karakteristik eksistensialisme yang ada pada Silver Blackthorn, tokoh utama wanita dalam novel ini. Yang pertama adalah subjektivitas. Yang kedua adalah *conscious being in the world*. Yang ketiga adalah kontingensi. Yang keempat adalah anti-materialisme. Yang kelima adalah kemanusiaan. Namun, peneliti tidak menemukan data tentang keyakinan sebagai salah satu karakteristik eksistensialisme. Namun, kebebasan Silver Blackthorn dalam novel dibatasi dan itu mengancam eksistensinya. Itu karena Silver menghadapi beberapa faktisitas dalam kondisinya. Silver menghadapi lima faktisitas. Yang pertama adalah tempat. Yang kedua adalah masa lalu. Yang ketiga adalah lingkungan sekitar. Yang keempat adalah orang lain dan eksistensinya masing-masing. Kelima adalah maut. Sebagai manusia, Silver memiliki beberapa karakteristik eksistensialisme dalam dirinya. Fakta yang tidak bisa dihilangkan bisa membatasi kebebasannya. Namun, Silver mencoba untuk mendapatkan kebebasannya dengan tidak menyerah pada kenyataan. Bahkan, dia menggunakan beberapa faktisitas untuk menjadi kekuatannya.

## ABSTRAK

حسنا، بداية المجتهدة (2020). وجود Silver Blackthorn في رواية Reckoning Kerry Wilkinson. (2014). أطروحة. قسم اللغة الإنجليزية وآدابها. الجامعة الإسلامية الحكومية مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المرشدة: أسني فريدا، الماجستير.

الكلمات الدالة: الوجود، الوجودية، الحرية.

خلق الناس في العالم بشكل مختلف عن مخلوقات أخرى. أعطوا القدرة على تحقيق جوهر حياتهم. خلق الجوهر من الوجود، أما الناس هم نتاج الوجود. يهدف هذا البحث العلمي إلى إيجاد خصائص الوجودية في Silver Blackthorn كالشخصية الرئيسية في Reckoning وجود Silver في الرواية. يهدف هذا البحث أيضا لترقية وعي القارئ عن نظرية الوجودية وتشجيع تحقيقها. هذا البحث هو نقد الأدب الذي يستخدم نظرية الوجودية. أجابت الباحثة على مشكلة البحث باستخدام خصائص الوجودية والواقعية في Sartre كجزء من نظرية الوجودية.

البيانات الأساسية من هذا البحث هي جميع الكلمات والعبارات والجمل من الشخصية الرئيسية المسماة Silver Blackthorn، التي تحتوي على خصائص الوجودية ووجودها في واحدة من ثلاثية Reckoning، Kerry Wilkinson. في هذا البحث جمعت الباحثة البيانات باستخدام هذه الخطوات: الخطوة الأولى، قرأت الباحثة رواية Reckoning بحرص. الخطوة الثانية هي التأكيد على البيانات وجمعها. هنا، قامت الباحثة فقط بجمع البيانات التي توضح خصائص الوجودية الموجودة في شخصية Silver Blackthorn. ثم قامت بتحليل كيفية وجود Silver Blackthorn كالشخصية الرئيسية في Reckoning من خلال النظر في الحقائق. وأخيرا، استخلاص النتائج.

نتيجة هذا البحث أشارت على أن من بين الخصائص الست للوجودية هناك خمس خصائص الوجودية التي توجد في Silver Blackthorn، الشخصية الأنثوية الرئيسية في هذه الرواية. الأولى هي الذاتية. الثانية هي الوجود الواعي في العالم. الثالثة هي الطوارئ. الرابعة هي معاداة المادية. والخامسة هي الإنسانية. ولكن لم تجد الباحثة البيانات حول المعتقدات كواحدة من خصائص الوجودية. ولكن، فإن حرية Silver Blackthorn في الرواية محدودة وتهدد وجودها. ذلك لأن Silver واجهت بعض الحقائق في حالتها. Silver واجهت خمس حقائق. الأولى هي المكان. الثانية هي الماضي. الثالثة هي البيئة. الرابعة هي الآخر ووجود كل منهم. الخامسة هي الموت. بصفتها إنسانا، لدي Silver العديد من خصائص الوجودية فيها. الحقائق التي لا يمكن محوها يمكن أن تجد من حريتها. ولكن

تحاول Silver الحصول على حريتها من خلال عدم التخلي عن الواقع. بل،  
تستخدم بعض الحقائق ليكون قوتها.





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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, definition of key terms, previous study, and research method.

### A. Background of the Study

Human beings in the universe are created differently from other creatures. They are given the ability to realize the essence of their life. Unlike the animal, human always think toward the purpose of their life. They always want to make bad things to be good and make good things to be better. In all of their life, a human is struggling to do the best to find and realize their life's goal.

According to Sartre, the essence is created by existence, while human nature is a product of existence. However, freedom is very essential to a human being as it can be identified as human existence itself. The matter of this existence in philosophical movement is called existentialism. It talks about the nature of human existence, value, and meaning.

Literature and philosophy are, in fact, different from each other. Philosophy studies concern towards human and emphasize on the living human while literature emphasizes its study on the reflection of the human being written in literary work created by its author. It reflects society. However, literature is often made as a manifestation of philosophy's ideas. Furthermore, one of the

modern philosophy ideas that influence modern literature is existentialism. Both of them are based on human life's reality that is marked by their emotions such as anxiety, despair, loneliness, fearlessness, etc.

*Reckoning* is an unpopular novel from the best-selling author Kerry Wilkinson. The novel is containing the story of a sixteen years old girl who tries to escape the whims of a cruel king. It published in 2014 and was the first book in the Silver Blackthorn trilogy. It tells the reader that in the village of Martindale where someone is sixteen years old, they have to undergo a test called the reckoning.

It will classify them into four classes in the society. They are Elite, Member, Inter, and Trog. After they got their reckoning results, the minister will announce some representatives of each district to be an offering. However, the main character, Silver is chosen to become an Offering for King Victor. To be the offering for the king, people do not know what exactly they do. People only know the offering will get a good life in Windsor Castle.

The researcher chooses this novel because it has a great story about people who accept their fate according to their social class. They don't have the freedom to choose in their life. Thus, they don't realize their existence in the world as a human. Even the people do not realize that they are in the middle of oppression until Silver Blackthorn, the main character joined the Offering. Moreover, the novel has a good plot. Its story flows *in medias res* which means the story opens in the middle of the plot. Also, the story is very interesting because it has a lot of twists.

The researcher will use existentialism theory to analyze Kerry Wilkinson's novel *Reckoning* because the theory is relevant to answer the research question in the novel. Furthermore, the researcher will implement Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism theory because he is a French philosopher who focuses on the construction of existence philosophy. He is also a pioneer in investigating Marxism from an existentialist perspective.

Before carrying out the study, the researcher finds that no researcher studies about this novel yet. Therefore, this is the researcher's challenge to be the first researcher to analyze this novel. Furthermore, the researcher finds some previous studies as relevant references. Some researchers have conducted a study with a similar theory. There are Garry (2008) who examine the *Sophie's World* novel using existentialism theory, Ulfa (2017) who analyze *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie using existentialism theory by Sartre. Ulfa's research focus is about the characteristics of existentialism, and Baker (2014) who analyzed *Chuck Palahniuck's Fight Club* using existentialism by Sartre and Camus.

Unlike the previous studies, to enrich the development of the study, the researcher in this study tries to analyze the characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning* and Silver's existence by considering the facticity.

## **B. Research Questions**

The study aims to answer the following questions:

1. What are the characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning*?
2. How does the existence of Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning*?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The study aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To identify the characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning*.
2. To explain the existence of Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning*.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

This research has two benefits: theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research is expected to enriching the development of literary criticism found in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning* novel. The result of this research is expected to contribute to the upcoming research in the analysis which is related to existentialism. Practically, this study is expected to persuade reader and researcher awareness about existentialism and supposed to realize their existence. Finally, the findings also are expected to give benefit toward *Reckoning* reader in



understanding the main character, Silver Blackthorn's existence in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning* novel.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

This research focuses on analyzing the existence of the main character named Silver Blackthorn. All the data are seen only from the perspective of existentialism by Jean-Paul Sartre in *Reckoning* Novel.

#### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

1. **Existence** is the meaning of someone to exist at all as opposed to not existing (Panza, 2008, p.13).
2. **Existentialism** is a philosophical movement that takes as its starting point the experience of the human as a subject (Gardner, 2009, p.6).
3. **Freedom** is human autonomy. In a purposeless universe, man is condemned to freedom because he is the only creature who is "self-surpassing", who can become something other than he is. (Bigelow, 1961, p.177)

#### **G. Previous Studies**

The study about Existentialism theory has been conducted by some researchers. The first study is Francis Garry (2008) who examine the *Sophie's World* novel using existentialism theory. He found that Sophie learns the history of philosophy throughout the story and finally she knows about her existence and

reality. Therefore, she is conscious of her existing world. She also realizes that there is an enormous power which works within the universe, and she is part of it.

The second study, Ulfa M (2017) who analyze *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie using existentialism theory by Sartre. Her research focus is about the characteristics of existentialism. There are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, humanity, and faith. According to Ulfa, *How to Train Your Dragon 2* movie contains five characteristics of existentialism. They are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, and humanity. There is no faith as one of the existentialism characteristics.

The third study, Muammar Hasan (2014), contends that *the Solitaire* mystery novel can be studied from the existentialism theory approach. He found that Joker gets his existentialism through many processes. The processes are observation, question, and denial of his creator. Therefore, Joker gets out of the dream world and appears to the real world.

The fourth study, Javeed Ahmad Raina (2017), applied an existentialism reading of *The Alchemist* novel by Paulo Coelho. It analyzed how Coelho's protagonist explores the existence to find the ultimate meaning and purpose of human. Using the existentialist approach, he found that the story teaches the readers to read the omens strewn along life's path, and following dreams.

Another study, Jennifer Ann (2011), used both Sartre's existentialism theory and Albert Camus the psyche theories to analyze the reality and existentialism in *House of Leaves'* novel. It concludes that the story breaks down

traditional notions of reality, but retains existentialism hope for individuals who can find a purpose in life, even if that *purpose* is necessarily subjective.

The last study is belonging to Richard E. Baker (2014) entitled *Chuck Palahniuck's Fight Club Apropos of Sartre's Bad Faith and Camus's Calculated Culpability*. He is using the theory of existentialism by Jean-Paul Sartre, and found that the main character, Omar Al Hamazawi, looked for the meaning of his life and existence. He believes that life has no meaning. Then he searched for his lost identity and the real reason for his existence.

From those previous studies above, the similarities between this study and those studies are that the researcher chooses to use Existentialism theory as a tool to analyze the object of literary work. However, the researcher has not found any other researchers discussed existentialism in a character that lives in the middle of oppression such as *Reckoning*. Thus, the researcher will focus on the characteristics of existentialism and the existence of Silver Blackthorn as the main character in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning* novel. Therefore, this research is important to be conducted.

## **H. Research Method**

### **1. Research Design**

This research is designed as literary criticism. According to Abrams (2014), literary criticism is a study related to the definition, analogy, and analysis of literary work. This research uses the researcher itself as the instrument. The researcher analyzes the data in the form of words descriptively. It uses an

objective approach that focuses on the analysis of the text in isolation (Abrams, 2014).

This research applies existentialism theory as a tool to examine the novel. Specifically, this research uses Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism theory. Since there are a lot of discussions about human existence, it is important to make a clear limitation about it. The researcher takes the characteristics of Jean-Paul Sartre existentialism in Muzairi's (2002) book entitled *Eksistensialisme Jean-Paul Sartre*.

## **2. Data Source**

The primary data of this research are all of the word, phrase, and sentence of the main character named Silver Blackthorn, which contained the characteristics of existentialism and existence that appeared in one of the Kerry Wilkinson' Silver Blackthorn's trilogy, *Reckoning*. It consists of 368 pages published in 2014 by Pan Books Publisher.

## **3. Data Collection**

In this study, the researcher collects the data by taking the following steps. First, the researcher reads the *Reckoning* novel in detail. Highlighting and collecting the data is the second step. The researcher only collected data that shows the characteristics of existentialism reflected by Silver Blackthorn. Then, analyzing how the existence of Silver Blackthorn as the main character in *Reckoning*. And finally, conclude.

#### 4. Data Analysis

After collecting and studying the data, the researcher analyzes the data itself. The first is to analyze the characteristics of existentialism in Silver Blackthorn. The researcher takes the characteristics of Jean-Paul Sartre existentialism in Muzairi's (2002) book entitled, *Eksistensialisme Jean-Paul Sartre*, who formulates six characteristics of human existence. There are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, humanity, and faith.

Second, is to analyze how the existence of Silver Blackthorn as the main character in the novel by considering the facticity. There are five facticity. There are place, past, environment, fellowmen, and death. Finally, the researcher is going to conclude the analysis to answer the first and second research questions.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter contains the theoretical concept of existentialism, human existence, and the existentialism of Jean Paul Sartre.

#### A. Existentialism

The term existentialism is an anthropological philosophy that emphasizes human existence, freedom, and responsibility. Etymologically, existentialism is from the word “existence” as a noun, “to exist” as a verb means the state of being. According to Kierkegaard, the father of existentialism, “to exist” means to realize the human self through the freedom of choice and self-commitment. Then, he stresses that every human is an individual different from others (Obinyan, 2014, p.2). The concept of existentialism is also found in other great philosopher’s works, such as Nietzsche (1844-1900), Martin Heidegger (1889-1976), Karl Jaspers (1883-1969), and Jean Paul Sartre (1905-1980).

The one who coined the term existentialism is Gabriel Marcel, a French Catholic philosopher, in the mid-1940s. Then, it was popularized by Jean-Paul Sartre’s book in 1945 entitled *L’existentialisme est un humanism* (Existentialism is a Humanism). The historical background of existentialism is a reaction of how people view human which is disappointing. Humans are not accepted as individuals as they are, but have been redirected in some ways, whether they are valued only as a material process (materialism) or merely spirits (idealism).



Therefore, existentialism is a philosophy that wants to fix the way people look at humans as the actual human being. It is a response to how materialism and idealism see humans (Crowell, 2009).

Materialism and Idealism directly or indirectly believe as the origin of existentialism. In materialism, human behavior is associated with providing material needs. However, existentialism reveals that materialism contradicts with the reality because materialism only sees from one viewpoint or aspect then generalizes it as a whole. Besides, materialism only sees a human as an object, not a subject. On the other hand, according to Hegel, as the theorist of idealism, Human is based on a spirit developing to reach perfection. In contrast, existentialism argues that it is incorrect because idealism only looks at consciousness, eliminating the principle that humans stand as subject and object (Solomon, 1987).

Kierkegaard, known as the father of existentialism said that existence is the most important of a human being. Moreover, he received the Socrates' principals about self-knowledge. "Self-knowledge is knowledge of God". According to Sartre, humans are freedom. They are the only creature that does not have a certain nature. Therefore, if they accept a certain nature, they are not free. The human being is always associated with his action in choosing and making decisions about the possibilities that they face and their responsibility (Oliver, 2018).

## B. Human Existence

Existentialism is a study about human existence. The philosophy of existentialism emphasizes the uniqueness of the individual in-universe, considers the unexplainable of human existence and emphasizes freedom of choice and one's acts' responsibility. These principles formulate human existence into a field of study. Therefore, some existentialists formulate the concept of human existence. Those are Jean Paul Sartre in *Preface to Philosophy* states that existentialism is a general orientation of philosophy that has no set of a common principle. However, some themes need to be emphasized. Those are the importance of human existence rather than abstract theory, freedom, and necessity to choose, the denial of any settled human nature and moral codes, the appropriate of authentic lifestyle, and the encounter with death (Woodhouse, 1975, p.154).

Human existence means a human stands up as if out of him/ herself. However, everything around him connected to him. A human realizes that he exists and determines his situation and all his action in the world. (Hadiwijono, 1992, p.148). It explains that a human will find him/ herself as a person. He will find how to get out of himself and occupy him/ herself with everything that is outside of him/ herself. Therefore, a human is a free creator because a human is freedom itself.

According to Descartes, the concept of human existence is "Cogito Ergo Sum" which means "I think, therefore I exist". It is the essential well-known concept of existentialism (Stone, 1993, p.462). However, Kierkegaard believed that the idea of human existence refers to personal existence. For him, each

individual can decide his own life through manifestation on himself by rejecting himself from the crowd, thus it will give value to his existence. In describing his perception, Kierkegaard proposed human existence's stage of life: the aesthetic, ethical, and religious stages (Obinyan, 2014, p.3).

However, Heidegger, one of the famous existentialism theorists, in his book entitled *The Nature of Human Existence* reflects that human beings are part of the world in which they exist and can't be separated from the world. Heidegger's ideas informed the theoretical framework of the study included Dasein, lived experience, being in the world, everyday ordinariness, being with, temporality, encounters with entities, and the participants' care structure. Heidegger's philosophical analytic focused on the human being's existence in their world as an individual and within their social context (Kelly, 2016).

There are a large number of discussions toward human existence. Therefore, it is necessary to make a clear limitation. The researcher takes a certain theory about human existence. It is the characteristics of human existence in Muzairi's book (2002) entitled *Eksistensialisme Jean Paul Sartre*. There are six characteristics of human existence. There are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, humanity, and faith. Muzairi formulated the characteristics of human existence by the concept of former existentialism theorists, such as Soren Kierkegaard, Jean Paul Sartre, and Martin Heidegger. However, the researcher applies the theory only from the standpoint of Jean Paul Sartre's existentialism theory.

## 1. Subjectivity

Subjectivity is an individual judgment based on personal intuition, feelings, and perspective than external facts. Subjectivity's definition leads people to understand that human existence is highlighted in each individual as personal existence. Muzairi (2002) stated that human existence is eternally particular and individual. It is about my existence, your existence, and existence (p.46); this characteristic is an Interpretation of personal existence. It exists for all humans and depends on the quality of an individual. Moreover, there is a well-known concept about human existence that is formulated by Sartre. It is *existence precedes essence*.

According to Sartre, there is one being who has *existence precedes essence* (Webber, 2009, p.8). It means that a being exists before he can be identified by any perception. First of all, human exists appears in an arena, and subsequently define himself. Human is nothing but what makes himself. Thus, *existence precedes essence* becomes the primary principle of existentialism. Also, it is what is called subjectivity. This concept differentiates a human and an object. An object can't exist the way a human does. It is because of human conscious being in the world.

Subjectivity is also talking about how a man sees other people. In a case like this, a man will always see himself as a subject and other people as an object. Therefore, frequently existentialism becomes trapped by its virtues. It encourages everyone to do anything unethically by his subjectivity. Then, there is not only chaos but possible immoral behavior. Therefore, human determines the essence

which means there are no fixed values. A human can create a world of subjectivity by objectify the others. That what Sartre means by *Hell is other people* (Muzairi, 2002, p.175).

For Kierkegaard, subjectivity emphasizes on a personal truth. Human existence is truth and truth is subjectivity. However, the fact that the truth is a paradox shows that subjectivity is the truth. The role of subjectivity is for awareness and realities. It is based on the dualism of a person. Subjectivity is what makes someone himself. Thus, subjectivity becomes one of the characteristics of human existence (Amstutz, 1961).

## **2. Conscious Being in the World**

Conscious being in the world is the stage of being capable to behave senses and mental power to comprehend what is occurring in the world. It means realizing the uniqueness of every individual being. In Webber, the existentialists stated that each human being is unique (Webber, 2009, p.309). Human is not an object or something general. They are existing as an individual who conscious of being in the world. For a human being, it is such a dilemma to understand his/ her existence. Because, according to Sartre, the human appears before they know who they are or whom they want to be (existence). Therefore, it is necessary to have a responsibility toward this uniqueness for human existence (Zalta, 2009).

The conscious being in the world turns out to be a moving factor to prove human existence. It argues about individual responsibility for everything they choose. It needs self-consciousness. However, consciousness is also rejection



from the outer world. The rejection appeared from the difference of each individual's conscious being in the world as well as the fact of subjectivity. Thus, it brings the conscious being in the world into alienation. The individual realizes his/her existence (self-consciousness) and dealt with a self-alienation (Muzairi, 2002, p.116).

According to some existentialist, self-consciousness is nothing. Sartre states that being conscious is to be embarrassed, to be humiliated, and unpleasant kind of feeling. It is where human being feels separated from the world and other people. In the isolation, the human would feel threatened, unimportant, empty, and in responsible demands through an inflated view of self (Solomon, 1987, p.242). Thus, when humans realize their existence in the world, they will take the distance between themselves and the world. This is what distinguishes humans from other creatures.

### 3. Contingency

The contingency is the effective involvement of human beings with the real world. Human existence has caused effective involvement in the world. Human beings affirm their existence by fulfilling contingency. It intends that the existence of human continuous processes. The process makes humans become a real human being in the real world. Muzairi (2002) revealed that the existence of a human being is not an observation but contingency (p.47). Moreover, existentialism is certainly attempting to reveal the whole human as an existence which is *existence precedes essence*.



The theory of human existence is not only a matter of concept. The concept of human existence is supposed to be applied in reality. Human existence is always involving life's experience in the real world. However, Sartre concerns about contingency. He said that existentialist is always talking about the human existence. Furthermore, human existence is actual, not conceptual. Also, He states that "I am condemned to exist forever, beyond the causes and motives of my act." Human is nothing else but the sum of his/ her actions, nothing else but what his life is" (Muzairi, 2002, p.141).

#### **4. Anti-materialism**

Existentialism agrees with anti-materialism. Existentialist refuses a judgment only based on materialistic values. Materialism contradicts the essence of a human being. Materialism considers a human being as a materialistic process where the body, passion, soul, and life of a person symbolize the material. On the other hand, anti-materialism considers the whole existence of a human being. It is something labeled existence beyond the material itself. Therefore, existentialism regards a human being as a real human.

According to Julien Offray de La Mettrie in his book *L' Homme Machine* (Man a machine), man is symbolized as a machine (La, M.J.O, 1996). He denies the existence of the soul as a substance separate from matter. However, the human soul is equated with the work of a machine. Existentialist denies the perspective of how materialism regards a human. Anti-materialism argues that human beings can't be equated with the object or thing. As Sartre said, human and an object

can't be compared because human's existence precedes essence while an object doesn't. This becomes the primary of anti-materialism.

### **5. Humanity**

One of the characteristics of existentialism in human existence is humanity. Humanity is the value that asserts people's dignity based on the capability to decide the right and wrong in universal human qualities. This characteristic deals with the human being condition in life. The concern is the values of life that decide human existence in the world. The term of humanity related to an individual being. It tends to identify the fact of human existence which can be understood by accepting human condition completely.

Human beings are the only creatures that may struggle to ask themselves about life's purpose, needs to survive, the nature of their existence, etc. The humanity concept always draws attention to the dignity of a human. It means that there is an awareness to recognize the quality of all people. However, Sartre rejects the understanding of humanity that says the goal is ultimately humans. According to Sartre, a human is always out of himself. They are always arranging, making, and overcome their selves. Sartre believes that there is no universal humanity; they are only universal subjective people (Muzairi, 2002, p.49).

### **6. Faith**

Faith is a belief or devotion to life's value. This concept becomes a debating concern of existentialism. The main point of faith is defined by the

question of the existence of God. The existentialists contradictory answer the question. It leads the existentialism study into two sides. There are religious and non-religious (atheist) existentialists. The existentialist who believes in God belongs to religious existentialists. However, the existentialist who rejects the existence of God belongs to non-religious or atheist existentialists.

#### **a. Religious Existentialists**

This part of existentialists believes that God is the source of all existence in the world. Faith is appointed as the representation of the existence of God which manifested in a religion. Religious existentialists that mention first in the mid-nineteen centuries are Soren Kierkegaard, Gabriel Marcel, Jacques Maritain, Paul Tillich, Nicholas Berdyaev, and Martin Buber. Furthermore, their writings established as the most substantial developments in modern theology (Bigelow, 1961, p.172).

According to the religious existentialist, personalization of religion is a principle. It means that there is no rational reason that might take the place of commitment or “ultimate concern” as the first rule to believe in religion (Muzairi, 2002, p.51).

#### **b. Non-Religious or Atheist Existentialists**

The atheist existentialists refuse the perspective of God from religious existentialists. They only believe in the existence of a human being. According to Bigelow, in his journal of *A Primer of Existentialism*, the

chief spokesmen of atheist existentialists are Jean Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir (p.172). They are several important French writers that had rigorous and significant involvement to resist Nazi in World War II. However, the most well-known atheist existentialist is Jean Paul Sartre.

According to Sartre, a human is absolute freedom. Human is the one who plans about their future and creates their value. If there is God, a human will be not free anymore. Human will not have a choice and only be a slave of God. However, a human can't be a slave while simultaneously he is free. In *Being and Nothingness*, Sartre said: "I am condemned to be free, then I am free" (Muzairi, 2002, p.83).

### **C. Existentialism of Jean Paul Sartre**

Jean Paul Sartre is a France writer who was born on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1905 and died on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1980. He is a well-known philosopher after World War II. Also, He is a pioneer of existentialist who supports personal freedom and responsibility. According to Sartre, every human is an author of his choices. Mostly, he wrote his ideas of existentialism in the form of literary works. The first novel is *Nausea* that published in 1938. On the other hand, there are some of his philosophical theories that are written in the essay, such as *Existentialism is a Humanism* and *Being and Nothingness*.

### 1. Existence Precedes Essence

The fundamental principle of existentialism that Sartre introduced is 'existence precedes essence'. According to Bigelow, it reveals that first human life (has existence) then defines himself (has being or essence) (p.172). Therefore, every human's life experience is unique, different from each other. Because humans exist before his essence, he is the one who created their life purpose. Externally, a human appears to be just the same as other creatures. Besides, internally he is an entire universe, the center of infinity.

Sartre links 'existence precedes essence' to his theory of freedom and responsibility. He said that human is freedom. Human is an individual who does not have an essence to decide their actions, he is the one who creates it. One way of expressing this idea is to exclaim that the human subject is without an essence. Furthermore, human's essence is 'the synthetic order of its possibilities or that existence implies its essence. However, for whatever, humans decide to be his essence they have a responsibility toward his act (Gardner, 2009, p.24).

Based on Sartre's paradigm about human freedom, he believed that God doesn't exist. A human simply exists and later he becomes his essential selves. If there is God, a human will be not free anymore. Human will not have a choice and only be a slave of God. However, a human can't be a slave while simultaneously he is free. In *Being and Nothingness*, Sartre said: "I am condemned to be free, then I am free" (Muzairi, 2002, p.83).



Freedom is a requirement for action. According to Sartre, “we must recognize that the indispensable and fundamental condition of all action is the freedom of the acting being” (Sartre, 1992, p.563). It means that a human must recognize that freedom is what a human needs and basic condition for all actions. Freedom is the basis of all essence as long as human life in the world. When human consciousness exists, freedom also exists (Yussafina, 2015, p.92).

## **2. Facticity and Human Freedom**

According to Gardner, the term Facticity signifies the human condition of being situated in particularity (p.99). It comprehends human physical, social, cultural, political, institutional, and historical relations. However, humans confront facticity as an unavoidable reality. In Muzairi’s book, the absolute freedom of human beings must deal with facticity. Sartre considers facticity does not reduce freedom. He formulates the realities that humans facing, which causes a lack of human freedom.

There is some facticity which cannot be eliminated. Besides, it can forget a moment, manipulate, and manage. In Sartre’s book *Being and Nothingness*, there are five facticity, namely: place, past, environment, fellowmen, and death. (Muzairi, 2002, p.153)

## 1. Place

Human exists in a situation place. It can be related to the fact that humans exist with a body, but the body is not an object. A body that is lived is human. It means that place is one of the human needs. The existence of a place where human lives, it can be used as a basis for their actions. However, it depends on the choice that humans choose as their freedom. A man who lived in Paris can move to London. In this case, Paris is the facticity. Even though it is not easy to move to London, it's all depends on the man's choice.

Sartre said that his limitations on places are one of the forms of facticity. However, the meaning of the place, whether it is a barrier, opportunity, or starting point depends on the freedom he has. In this case, human freedom appears as strength for the facticity of place (Muzairi, 2002, p. 156).

## 2. Past

Every human being who lives has a past. A human can process the past to be everything that he wants. Every human being can forget and manipulate the past. The past cannot be eliminated. The past has passed. However, a human's decision is in the present which may be different from what has prepared in the past. Thus, the historical factor cannot determine a human's action. It is a human who makes history.

Sartre considers the past cannot determine a human's existence. For him, as long as a human has the freedom to choose, everything may change. On the other hand, he also said that there is a reality that cannot be changed. It is

out of human's plan and choices. One of the examples is birth defects (Muziri, 2002, p.157).

### **3. Environment**

The environment is one of the facticity that human being faced as existence and this cannot be eliminated (Olivier, 2018). As a reality, it also has several possibilities. The environment is everything including the objects and tools surrounding humans. Human is not only a result of environmental influences. Besides, humans give the structure to the environment. The human's freedom still gives human choice to handle.

According to Sartre, the environment is made by human himself. It means that humans are not controlled by the environment; rather he is the one who creates the situations and conditions. Human is not free. Human is freedom itself. He doesn't give up on the situations and conditions. The tools human found in the environment will be used by humans. In this case, a human will find various kinds of freedom (Muzairi, 2002, p.160).

### **4. Fellowmen**

The fact about the existence of another human being is unavoidable. According to Sartre, this is an important issue (Webber, 2009, p.160). The existence of another person with his background will affect his response to one person. Even, the background that is not chosen by him can affect another human being. For example, the difference in skin color that human being has.

The Nigerian people in America are not white. However, it is not his choice to be black, brown, or white.

The fact that there is a human being with his existence causes a serious problem in the relationship of human beings. It links to subjectivity, the relationship of subject and object. A human always sees another human as their objects while he sees himself as a subject. When all human being sees another human like this, there will be overlaps for who are the objects and subjects. However, humans will always be subject and objectify others (Muzairi, 2002, p.166).

## **5. Death**

Death is one of the facticity faced by a human being as existence. Every human being will end his existence by death. Because of death, all human existence will be gone. As an atheist, Sartre considered death as nothing. He only said when a human being has died; he will be a thing of the past. Death is not something that a human being cannot wait. Besides, it is certainly will come to every human being in this world.

Sartre described death as a boundary just like a wall (Muzairi, 2002, p.164). At the time, a human may knock against the wall beyond his freedom to choose. Therefore, his freedom is disconnected. Furthermore, in the point of view for other people, seeing someone dead means a victory. It makes someone who died as an object of someone else that is still alive. Someone

who still alive can do everything including talking bad towards the dead people.





## CHAPTER III

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the research findings of Silver Blackthorn's existence in Kerry Wilkinson's *Reckoning*. First, the researcher will find Silver's characteristics of existentialism in the novel. Subsequently, the researcher analyzes and determines the existence of Silver Blackthorn. Second, the researcher analyzes how the existence of Silver by considering the facticity.

#### A. Findings

##### 1. Silver Blackthorn's Characteristics of Existentialism

###### a. Subjectivity

Every human being has an individual judgment based on personal intuition, feelings, perspective than external facts. According to Sartre, one thing that differentiates between humans and other things in this world is formulated as *existence precedes essence*. First, the human appears in an arena, and subsequently define him/herself. It is what makes someone himself. Therefore, the existence of each human being is unique. This condition shows that this characteristic is an Interpretation of personal existence.

Silver Blackthorn is a sixteen years old girl who lived in the village of Martindale. When everyone is sixteen years old, they have to undergo a test

called the Reckoning which only comes once a year. It will classify them into four classes in society. They are Elite, Member, Inter, and Trog. After they got their Reckoning's results, the minister will announce some representatives of each district to be an Offering.

*For me, the Reckoning is something I have spent my whole life anticipating as each year has become a progressively larger event. Even though we will only spend a few hours inside the village hall, the buildup has grown into a whole morning for everyone -a time for people to celebrate the end of the war, although it isn't as if we have prosperity to enjoy (P.2)*

At the beginning of the novel (chapter I), it describes the situation when Silver is in the middle of the Reckoning which held in the crowded main square. People are cheering along the road. However, people never know how the Reckoning works. Some people say that Reckoning depends on what each teenager wants to work for. Some say it depends on the day of the test. However, some persist that Reckoning is what the teenagers studied at school.

Furthermore, in Silver's perspective, the Reckoning is a large event that she is waiting for in a whole life. Silver feels that the few hours inside the village hall is a moment for people to celebrate the end of war. It makes Silver happy to see everyone in the road cheering for her and other teenagers that have the Reckoning test. Although she is not as nervous as her friend, Wray, she feels a little bit worried because her next life will be decided after Reckoning.

*Not knowing what to expect, I feel a question drifting into the front of my mind, wondering how my day is going. I try not to smile but respond that I thought the Reckoning would be a little harder than this. (p. 16)*

Furthermore, Reckoning uses a sophisticated machine. The procedure of it is the teenagers make a line to queue; the Kingsman will check each teenager's *thinkwatch*. However, there are screens in the room. It utilizes a machine that scans everyone's thoughts. Silver had some experiences in the Reckoning. First, she feels something in her head asking her identity. Then, the screen will show a complete data of her even the memory that Silver already forgets about.

According to Silver's perspective, the machine doesn't read her mind. Despite, it simply stores what Silver tells. Silver feels a lot of questions drifting through her mind wondering how her day is going. For Silver, the test is quite easy. However, when she is looking around, some people are crying, smiling, or even getting angry.

Silver's personal feeling about Reckoning is very pleased. She can feel that the Reckoning tries to understand Silver as a person. It is an individual test that leads Silver to understand her existence. Because Silver has the skill to fix electronics or machines, it is not surprised for Silver that she is chosen to become a Member, person who works in the industry and productivity for her country.

*I stare straight at him, waiting for him to ask the other question he has holding back. 'what if you're chosen? He asks. 'If I'm chosen, I'd have no choice' I say (p.24)*

After the Reckoning test, there will be an announcement for the people who will become an Offering. The announcement will be air on all television.

It is the moment for people in each village to wait for. Because the more the village has teenagers to be Offering, the more people in the village have prestige. Even though people rarely talk about the Offering, but in silver's perspective, it is inevitable.

In the story, Silver is chosen to become an Offering. She is the only teenager in the village of Martindale who becomes an Offering. Her mother is so proud of her. However, even though everyone in the village of Martindale is so happy about it, Silver feels strange. She is wondering whether she has done something special which prompted her choosing or is it a random lottery.

The teenagers who are chosen to become an offering would go to Windsor castle by using a train. Most of them look so happy and proud to be an Offering. They are all wearing the best dress and clothes they have while talking excitedly to each other. However, Silver doesn't really talk much. When everyone is talking about their social status and avoids the Trog, Silver prefers to sit beside Wray (a Trog) to accompany him.

*I feel as if my mind is already a step ahead of where the others are. For them, this is exciting; the extravagance of our room is something to be enjoyed. I think of the cameras, the locked door, and the windows we can't see out of and cannot open. (p. 86)*

When Silver arrives in Windsor Castle, Silver's intuition tells her that something is not right. She thinks about the cameras, the locked door, and the strange windows. Even, the way the door closed makes her believe that she is locked in. The other teenager that comes for Offering looks so excited and

enjoyed. Besides, Silver is paranoid. It makes her speak little than she had in her life.

The boys and the girls' dormitory are separated. After the Prime Minister brings them to the dormitory, the girls chat to each other excitedly. Besides, Silver just keeps silent. She feels that she is already an outsider. Surprisingly, when she wants to send messages to her mom through the *thinkwatch*, the communication isn't working. There is no signal. She feels trapped.

*Suddenly I hear what I have been waiting for. The king's cheers and demands fade until they are slur words that merge into one. I hear confusion all around and scramble onto my front, peering up to the king's box as he sinks into the seat. Half of his face has slumped, drool dripping from his paralyzed lips, his eye hanging lazily (p.344).*

Since the first day of Silver becomes an Offering, she finds out that the king is so ruthless. King Victor treats the Offering just like a prisoner. He set a high-security system in Windsor Castle. Also, King Victor likes to kill the Offerings. He does everything he likes for his own happiness. Moreover, King Victor kills the teenagers for his entertainment. It makes Silver feels helpless.

Silver always tries to find out the way out of the castle. She sneaks out almost every night. Moreover, she meets Imrin who is another offering from the boy dormitory. They both plan to escape from Windsor Castle. They mark all the cameras and try to hack them. However, the process is not easy. Until one day, Silver gets caught by Minister Prime. Then, she is going to jail.



Moreover, Silver is treated so badly in jail. Both of her hand is in chains. She only sleeps on straw. Until one day, on a weekly feast, the king asks Minister Prime to bring Silver in front of the other Offerings. Thus, King Victor wants to humiliate Silver and it is a warning for the other Offerings to not trying to escape just like Silver. Furthermore, Imrin has another plan. He asks one of the Offering that works in the kitchen to put poison to King Victor's glass.

After the cheers, King's Victor laugh's slowly fade away. Silver hears confusion when all the kingsmen confused look King Victor unconscious. This is the moment Silver waiting for. It is the time for her and others Offering to escape. Then, some of the other Offering come to Silver and help her to get up and run away from Windsor Castle.

Subjectivity is also talking about how a man sees other people. In this case, Silver suspects the King was trying to oppress her and the other teenagers as fellow Offering in the castle. The king looks at the Offering like an object. Therefore, Silver wants to create her world of subjectivity by looking at King Victor as an object. Therefore, Silver doesn't feel guilty looking at King Victor's unconscious.

According to Sartre, human existence is highlighted in each individual as personal existence. Silver knows her existence as a Member after taking the Reckoning. Member means that she exists to work in the industry and productivity for her country. It is existence precedes essence. First, Silver appears as a human being and subsequently defines herself after the

Reckoning. Moreover, she has also become an Offering. To know what is her purpose in life after doing the Reckoning and becoming an Offering is one of the human existence characteristics.

#### **b. Conscious Being in the World**

The stage of being capable to behave senses and mental power to comprehend what is occurring in the world is important. It needs self-consciousness. Sartre states that being conscious is to be embarrassed, to be humiliated, and unpleasant kind of feeling. It is where human being feels separated from the world and other people. Thus, when humans realize their existence in the world, they will take the distance between themselves and the world. This is what distinguishes humans from other creatures.

In fact, as a major character, Silver Blackthorn finds herself in a world of suspicion when it is difficult to know whom to trust and whom to fear. It starts when she joined the Reckoning, becoming an Offering and then finds out that she is a Member. However, joining the Reckoning is something that she never imagined about. There are a lot of people cheering on the streets along the way when Silver goes to the main square, a place that the Reckoning is held.

*Outside, there is another wave of celebration. From the top of the steps, I can't see anything other than streamers, confetti, and people waving and cheering. There are more faces than before and the sun higher and brighter. (p.41)*

Silver starts to recognize how the Reckoning means for people in Martindale when she took the Reckoning test. She starts to step in the crowd.

She feels that the atmosphere is so friendly. She sees a lot of people in the village of Martindale along the road waving and cheering. It shows how important and meaningful the Reckoning for people in Martindale.

It is the first step Silver conscious about her world. Later, she is still questioning a lot of things. For example, the reasons why people cheer for her, what is the importance of Reckoning, and what will be happening in the Reckoning. Furthermore, the result of the Reckoning makes Silver to be a Member in society. Member means that she exists to work in industry and productivity for her country.

*Pride and fear, confusion and exhilaration, loss, and anticipation; I feel it all more. I try to think of what I may have to do as an Offering and wonder if this has already been decided (p.54).*

After the result of the Reckoning come out, the Kingsman also announce the name of the teenagers who are chosen to become an Offering. Offering means the teenagers have to work in Windsor Castle. However, Silver is chosen to become one of the Offering. Everyone, including her mom, looks so happy. Nevertheless, she doesn't understand why people congratulate her after she becomes an Offering.

One of the states of being conscious is to have an unpleasant feeling. In this novel, Some of Silver's emotions are fear, confusion, and dejected after she knows that she is chosen as one of the teenagers who become an Offering. Even though her mother and people around her feel proud, Silver doesn't feel the same.

Thus, it brings her consciousness into alienation. Silver realizes her existence and dealt with a self-alienation; the alienation between her and the world. Before going to the castle, Silver likes to talk to herself. The fact about becoming an Offering makes her try to think about the purpose of her life. Moreover, she is wondering that the thing about her becoming an Offering is all already decided.

*I wonder if that is to be my fate and begin to feel self-conscious in my dress.  
We zigzag across the Realm but most of our pick-ups come from the cities  
where the crowds are beyond anything I have ever seen. Thousands have  
gathered to wave their Offerings goodbye as the carriage begins to fill up.  
(p. 71)*

As a proud mother, she gives Silver the best dress she had. It is the dress she wears when she was married to Silver's father. However, it is the first time for Silver to wear such a beautiful dress. She never imagined that this will happen to her. After she wears the dress, Silver totally realizes that everything will be different after this. Moreover, she is so surprised when she sees thousands of people gathered and waving to her.

In this state, Silver is ready to be more conscious about what will happen in front of her. Although there is no one knows what she will do in the castle, to meet King Victor is certainly one of her family's pride. Furthermore, being an Offering gives Silver a responsibility as the Martindale's village representative to King Victor. Moreover, the village will get more food because of it.

*It is hard to know what is the more shocking: that poor Wray is dead, or that our King -the person we have grown up idolizing- could have stabbed him callously. In a blink, I understand what the word Offering means: we are exactly that free for the king to do what he wants with. Whether he puts us to work or skewers us through a chair, we are his. (p.97)*

Silver is aware that she is in the middle of a dangerous game since her first day of becoming an Offering. There are a lot of cameras everywhere, the doors are always locked, and the communication lines are not working. Luckily, at night, there is a feast. When Silver tries to believe that everything will be fine, the king makes her shocked. The king suddenly kills Wray, one of the Offering teenagers, only because Wray makes a clattering noise after dropping the goblet.

However, Silver cannot believe that King Victor, the one whom idolized by many people in the village including her, does something so cruel. This time, Silver realizes the words ‘Offering’ means. It means that she is an Offering to the king. Now, Silver feels she will be living without hope. The king treats her badly. Silver only has a piece of bread for herself as a worker in a day. Besides, King Victor has a lot of food in his room.

*I am determined not to end up lost and broken like him but struggle to find anything that could give me hope. Instead, I feel alone. My mind constantly drifts back to my mother, Colt, Opie, and Imp. (p.135)*

Knowing that she is in the middle of danger, Silver tries to find anything that could give her hope. Even though it seems impossible, Silver determines not to give up. However, Silver Blackthorn is a sixteen years old girl feels lonely. In the middle of the night, she sneaks out to a tunnel between girls’ and boys’ dormitory while crying. She misses her family and friend.



Further, the conscious being in the world is a rejection from the outer world. Thus, it brings conscious being in the world into alienation. In this state, Silver feels lonely. She feels threatened and empty. At that time, she is thinking about her family at home is the only thing she can do. Suddenly, she misses them so much, considering how her life is just fine before the Reckoning.

*I already know I will be sneaking out every night if I can get away with it but I tell myself I should keep my intentions private. 'we need to be careful,' I say. As I make my way back to the bedroom, I have to remind myself that little has changed; we are still prisoners (p. 153).*

Silver sneaks out almost in every night. Moreover, she meets Imrin who is another offering from boy dormitory. Even though Silver already finds another offering to talk to, she realizes that she is still a prisoner and feels lonely as well as empty inside her heart. However, she needs to be careful in front of everyone by not showing that she befriends with Imrin.

It shows that Silver is in the stage of being capable to behave senses what is occurring in the world. She feels unpleasant being an Offering. When she sneaks out in the tunnel, she feels separated from the world. Even, she thinks about the way to escape from the castle with Imrin. Sometimes, she just tells Imrin that she feels empty and misses her home a lot.

### **c. Contingency**

For existentialists like Sartre, the involvement of human beings with the real world is one of the characteristics of human existence. Human

existence is always involving life's experience in the real world. It includes the past, freedom, responsibility, and decision making. Moreover, the researcher finds some data about contingency as the characteristics of human existence in Silver Blackthorn.

*People start knocking on our door almost immediately, many bringing Offerings of food: buns, bread, and fruit. (p.53)*

People's reaction when Silver becoming an Offering is unexpected for her. They look so happy. They congratulate Silver, bring foods, compliment the way Silver dress, etc. Moreover, Silver's best friend, Opie, gives her the best food he has. It just likes a jam in a jar with full fruit that each family in Martindale only gets one.

For the people in Martindale, the Offering gives them a feeling of purpose. They feel that they are part of the world and can contribute the same as another village to King Victor. Because the government said that there will be more food for people in the village who has the Offering to King Victor.

*As we live in the house, there are again people on the streets. The atmosphere feels more authentic. More smiles, more pat on the back, compliment my hair, my dress, and everything else leading towards the train station. (p.65)*

A good atmosphere is felt when Silver goes out of her house to the train station. More patting in the Silvers' back symbolizes how proud the people of Martindale to her. They believe that Silver will make their life better by being representative of Martindale. Moreover, Silver realizes that

the other teenagers who join as an Offering from other villages get the same treatment.

However, being an Offering is a big deal for Silver. She is bearing a big responsibility to the village, a place where she was born and grows. Knowing the reality inside the Windsor castle, Silver is struggling to escape. She wants to tell the world, especially people in Martindale what is going on inside the castle.

*It is hard to imagine how he has somehow become so respected outside the walls and I know the easy thing to do is to follow Hart's example by not standing out. Although it might get me through this year, perhaps another, I know I am only going to end up the same as Wray in the end. Somehow, I need to find a way to fight back. (p.139)*

Silver does not expect that King Victor who has been admired by many kills one of the teenagers on Silver's first day in the castle. One thing that Silver can do is following Hart, the last year Offering from the same village, by not standing out. He is going to work every day, doing all the routine. However, at midnight, she is secretly going to a tunnel between boys' and girls' rooms and plans to escape with Imrin.

Freedom is one of Sartre's concerns about human existence. Also, it is the trait of contingency. Silver feels trapped in the castle. Therefore, to gain her freedom, she decides to fight back. Silver knows this is not going to be easy. Therefore, she secretly plans the strategy with Imrin in the tunnel and eagers to tell the world what is going on inside the castle.

#### **d. Anti-Materialism**

Existentialist refuses a judgment only based on materialistic values. Materialism contradicts the essence of a human being. Existentialism regards a human being as a real human. Anti-materialism argues that human beings can't be equated with the object or thing. As Sartre said, human and an object can't be compared because human's existence precedes essence while an object doesn't. This becomes the primary of anti-materialism.

*At first, I don't do anything, instead of taking in the dim surroundings. There are no windows and only the one door, with a long thin light across the ceiling providing the only illumination. It feels strange being in a room lit by anything other than the sun or a candle. I want to ask about the fates of last year's Offerings but I am not sure I want to know the answer. Just keep your head down, do the work, don't be stupid, and you'll be fine, she adds (p.118)*

Becoming an Offering in Windsor castle forced Silver to work. King victor sees the teenager just like a machine. Actually, the purpose is to make all people in the country live easier. Some of them are working to produce foods, to fix electronics, to grow plants, etc. However, Silver is working with electronics. She is good at repairing various types of machines.

The last year's Offering suggests Silver to do nothing and keep working. That's the only thing she can do to survive. However, this is torturing the entire teenager, especially Silver. Moreover, the teenagers are only given to eat a slice of bread every day. That's why they become so thin. Secretly, Silver is planning to fight back. It shows that she refused the king's treatment to the workers and reject to be a worker herself. She is anti-materialism.

*'We had various people left over from the war – but Victor soon tired of them and demanded new, fresh young people be brought in. that's where the idea of Reckoning and Offering comes in' says porter (p.220)*

As part of realizing her existence, Silver asks the reason why there is Reckoning to Porter who already works in the castle for some years. Porter said that the castle had some workers left from the war. However, King Victor felt tired of them. He wants new and fresh young people. Then, the Reckoning and Offering ideas come out. Besides, Silver thinks that it is not right.

It shows that the king only sees the teenagers as materialistic values. It contradicts the essence of a human being. As the main character, Silver shows that she is different from the other teenagers. She always tries to search the purpose of all the things King Victor doing it for the worker. However, it is one of the types that Silver rejects materialism.

*It's hard to explain. Everyone I know is either an Elite or a Member. The Troggs are assigned to work for us; they clean, they follow us around, they do what they're told.' 'And you think that's right?' My voice echoes around the space. (p.253)*

The conversation between Silver and one of the Offerings that is an Elite show that Silver doesn't agree to classify the society decided from the Reckoning. Especially, the way people treat the Trogs. Trogs does everything for people including dirty job, such as: cleaning, following the Elite around, etc. However, for Silver, everyone is equal.

When the other teenagers always ask her friends whether she/ he is an Elite, Member, Inter, or Trog, Silver keeps silent. When no one wants to be a



friend with Trog, Silver accompanies a Trog. When other boys start to bully one of the Trogs, Silver tries to protect the Trog. It shows that Silver is an anti-materialism person. She considers the existence of other human beings as a human being.

#### e. Humanity

The value that asserts people's dignity based on the capability to decide the right and wrong in universal human qualities is important. The term of humanity is related to an individual being. According to Sartre, a human is always out of himself. They are always arranging, making, and overcome their selves. Sartre believes that there is no universal humanity; they are only universal subjective people.

*I try to slow myself, not wanting to make things look too easy, instead of trying to watch what the others are doing from the corner of my eye. I already have a pretty good idea of how to fix things, but, instead of doing it, I have offered a few things that probably won't work but sound possible. I know I sound naïve but that's what I want. (p.120)*

Before the Reckoning, Silver used to be an active girl who likes to run to the gully, a place for a lot of broken electronics and other people's rubbish. Even though it is prohibited for people to go there, she secretly plays with her friend, Opie, all day trying to fix the broken electronics in the gully. However, Silver feels that life is so exciting when she goes out and feels the breeze of air.

Furthermore, living in a castle changes Silver's perspective on the value of life. Getting a job that usually relevant to passion should motivate

her to live happily. However, Silver doesn't look excited about her passion again. Living in a castle that feels like prison encourages her not to showing her passion. The broken electronics do not looked exciting anymore.

The other workers that already live in a castle for two years are giving Silver an advice not to give the king a reason to notice her. Therefore, even though the broken electronic is a toy for her, Silver doesn't want to show that she is good at fixing electronics. Despite fixing the electronics for the king, Silver prefers to think the way the security system works in Windsor Castle.

*'Can I come to see you?' Hart shakes his head. 'Haven't you been listening? Don't make friends and don't give them a reason to notice you'. 'Whom do you mean by "them"?' 'Everyone - the Ministers, Kingsman, the King, whomever you are working with, or for. They want us all to against each other.'* (p.132)

Hart is the last year's Offering from the village of Martindale. When Silver asks him to let her come to see, Hart says not to make a friend or Kingsman will notice both of them. The Offering makes Silver believe that in this castle there is no one to trust. She slowly reduces her trust value to other people. It includes the king, the Kingsman, the minister, even whomever Silver working with and working for.

Therefore, Silver usually talking to herself, thinking about all the things to escape. At that time, simply staying alive is an achievement. However, to have this kind of value in this situation is right for Silver. As Sartre said, there is no universal value. Every human being has its value.

*'I don't want to die here' he says simply putting into words something that has been in the back of my mind since Wray was killed in front of me. It*

*sounds obvious but it is almost as if his words crystallized the vague thoughts that have been swimming in my mind. I grip his hand tighter to let him know I agree and then say words I have been trying to convince myself of. 'Let's escape, then.' (p. 167)*

Silver sneaks out almost in every night. Moreover, she meets Imrin who is another offering from boy dormitory. They share about their works, their life before the Reckoning, and their hardship. In the end, Silver gives the idea to escape. Her decision to escape is not easy to implement. Windsor Castle has the best security system in the country. There are cameras everywhere, the door is always closed, the windows can't see the outside, and the Kingsman everywhere.

Courage is one of the values that force Silver to fight back the king. However, it is not easy. Once the King noticed Silver trying to escape. She will die, just like what already happen for decades. However, once she is out, Silver has a plan; she needs to tell the people about the reality inside the castle, the oppression she's got, and how cruel the king is. Silver thinks that she has a great responsibility to tell the reality to the people outside the castle.

Based on the analysis to answer the first research question about Silver Blackthorn's characteristics of existentialism, the researcher concludes that there are five characteristics of existentialism of Silver Blackthorn in this novel. They are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, and humanity. However, there is no faith as one of the existentialism characteristics.

Silver's personal judgment as her subjectivity towards the Reckoning is a moment that she is waiting for. Although she is not as nervous as her friend, Wray, she feels a little bit worried because her next life will be decided after Reckoning. Silver's personal feeling about the Reckoning test is pleased. She can feel that the Reckoning tries to understand Silver as a person.

Moreover, Silver knows her existence as a Member after taking the Reckoning test. It is *existence precedes essence*. First, Silver appears as a human being and subsequently defines herself after the Reckoning. Moreover, she has also become an Offering. It makes her feel conscious of what happened in the kingdom. She feels like a prisoner being in the castle.

Silver's contingency makes her bring a responsibility as the Martindale's village representative to tell the reality of King Victor and Windsor Castle to the people outside the castle. Also, she decides to escape. Moreover, Silver as anti-materialism doesn't agree with Reckoning which place people in society based on the test and the way King Victor treats bad the Offerings.

Being an offering makes Silver finds her humanity as one characteristics of existentialism. The humanity links to the value. First, in this novel, Silver value of passion has faded away. She is not interested in electronics anymore. On the contrary, she is more focus on planning to escape from the castle. Second, living in the castle influences Silver not to trust

anyone. Third, facing the reality of the cruel king convinces Silver to have courage.

## 2. Silver Blackthorn's Facticity

Sartre links his fundamental principle *existence precedes essence* to his theory of freedom and responsibility. He said that human is freedom. Human is an individual who does not have an essence to decide their actions because he is the one who creates it. The term Facticity signifies the human condition of being situated in particularity. However, humans confront facticity as an unavoidable reality that may cause a lack of human freedom. It is something that cannot be changed and that it is outside of human plans and choices.

### a. Place

The limitations on places are one of the forms of facticity. The existence of a place where human lives, it can be used as a basis for human actions. Sartre said that his limitations on places are one of the forms of facticity. Human freedom appears as strength for the facticity of place. In this case, Silver Blackthorn was born and grew up in the village of Martindale, hundreds of miles north of the new English capital of Windsor.

*I have lived here all of my sixteen years and know almost every part of the cobbled streets criss-cross, Martindale. (p.1)*

Silver grew up in hundreds of miles north of the new English capital of Windsor, the village of Martindale. She is the type of girl who likes to go out



of the house to play and try to fix broken electronics with her friend. In a day, Silver goes out in the morning and go back home in the afternoon. It is not surprising that she knows almost every part of Martindale.

However, living in the village of Martindale obligates Silver to join the Reckoning test; The Reckoning is for sixteen-years-old teenagers. It will decide the teenagers' place in society. It could be Elite, Member, Inter, or Trog. Based on Sartre's theory, the village of Martindale where Silver was born and grew up is the unavoidable reality that Silver gets.

Furthermore, with her best friend, Opie, she likes to go everywhere in the village of Martindale; especially in the gully. The gully is a special name given by Silver and Opie to name a dry lake that the government places it for a lot of broken electronics and other people's rubbish. There are mountains of old fridges and freezers, piles of rusting vehicles, metal plastic, rotting wood with various types and materials.

*I began to naturally drift there, playing with objects as if they were toys, and figuring out how everything worked, creating my version. Opie and I have spent so much time there that we have our nickname for the place-the gully. (p.11)*

There is no playground in Martindale. However, as Sartre said that human freedom appears as strength for the facticity of place. Thus, Silver chooses her freedom to make her playground in the gully. She makes her place to have fun with her best friend, Opie. The gully is mountains of old fridges and freezers, piles of rusting vehicles, metal plastic, rooting wood whit various types and materials.

Although the Gully is a useless place for people in Martindale, Silver uses this facticity to be her strength. She likes to spend her time there. She takes advantage of broken electronics. Silver Blackthorn comes to the Gully to fix it and makes her version. Therefore, she is good at fixing the electronics and chosen to become the electronics worker in Windsor Castle.

*Reckoning day and Offering that follows only comes once a year and everyone has been waiting twelve months for this. (p.2)*

In addition, due to living in Martindale, Silver has to follow the rules that all of sixteen years old teenagers have to take a test called Reckoning. It is another unavoidable reality that Silver faces. The test will decide Silver Blackthorn in a certain place in society. It could be Elite, Member, Inter, or Trog. The result is announced on television throughout the country. However, Silver gets a place as a Member. Being a Member in the society means that Silver exists to work in industry and productivity in her country; furthermore, she is also chosen to be an Offering to King Victor.

*In the top corners of many of the corridors and stairways are small cameras attached to the ceiling with blinking lights underneath. Some of them swivel to follow our route, adding to my unease. (p.84)*

The unavoidable reality as a person who is chosen to be an Offering, he/she has to live and work in Windsor Castle to serve the King. It is a facticity of place that is miles away from the village of Martindale. However, Silver is chosen as one of the Offering. It is the first experience for Silver to leave home. She never left her mother and Opie. Nevertheless, she had no choice.

She has to follow the rule. She doesn't have freedom of choice against the rules that already been written and existed for years.

The castle of Windsor looked suspicious for the first time Silver sees it. There are blinking cameras everywhere. Hart, the last years' Offering that is still working in the castle, said that Silver cannot go everywhere in the castle because there's nowhere to go. It is just like a prison. According to Sartre, even though the place is the limitation, human freedom appears as strength for the facticity of place. In this novel, even though it seems impossible, Silver chooses her freedom to escape.

#### **b. Past**

Every human being has a past. The past cannot be eliminated. Humans can process the past to be everything that they want. Sartre considers the past cannot determine a human's existence. For him, as long as a human has the freedom to choose, everything may change. Although freedom is a choice and that's the reason everything can change, there is something that cannot be changed and that it is outside of human plans and choices.

*Twenty-five years ago, this country was destroyed by selfishness, incompetence, and lies. Eight years on, king Victor united this nation in peace, showing us the light where there was none. Tonight, we show our gratitude. (p.49)*

The country where Silver lived has a history. There was such relief after the war ended twenty-five years ago. Selfishness, incompetence, and lies destroyed the country. However, King Victor came and made peace in the

country. It is the reason why a lot of people love him. Therefore, people in Windsor kingdom love to show their gratitude through the Reckoning, including Silver.

What happened in the past influence what people in Windsor kingdom do in the future. Silver as one of the citizens only follows the traditions and cannot resist. According to Sartre, it is the reality that cannot be changed. Also, it shows King Victor can make history, and Silver can't change this facticity. Furthermore, it shows that Silver doesn't have the freedom to choose as a human being.

*'I'm almost embarrassed that he has noticed my nothingness. 'what was the alarm for last night?' 'Lockdown. We get them now and then, probably less often than we used to. There are still pockets of people not loyal to the King out there. We all know it but no one says anything. Sometimes, when it seems like there might be an eruption of violence close to the castle, the sirens sound and we're locked into wherever we are. It might last an hour or two, but anything up to a day or so. It always passes.' 'There's still fighting?' Porter nods but it is still hard to take in. I have never heard of anything other than adulation for the King. 'How long has it been going on?' 'I suppose it never stopped.'* (p.223)

According to Sartre, all of the facticity cannot be eliminated including the past. Besides, the past can forget for a moment, manipulate, and manage. In this stage, Silver realizes that all this time she and most people in the country believe in the fact that already manipulated by King Victor. Before Porter, the workers that already work in the castle for some years, explained what happens to the alarm last night, she believed that the war already ended twenty-five years ago. Therefore, she can live happily.

After becoming an Offering, Silver knows the truth that the riots still on. There are some people not loyal to the King. When there is violence close to

the castle, a sirens sound and the Offering locked into wherever they are. Even, Porter said that he thinks it will never be stopped. It is out of human's plan and choices. Also, Silver never chooses to be an Offering to King Victor. It shows that she doesn't have the freedom of choice to become an Offering.

Besides, the past is also linked to history. In Muzairi, Sartre said that history cannot determine human. Besides, a human is the one who makes history. At the last chapter in the novel, it tells that Silver is the first teenager who can escape from the Windsor castle. It shows that after knowing the fact that war is not ended yet, Silver makes history for herself to become the teenager who tries to fight back the King and succeeded in running away.

### c. Environment

Everything including the objects and tools surrounding humans is an unavoidable fact. However, according to Sartre, a human is freedom itself. Human doesn't give up on the situations and conditions. The tools human found in the environment will be used by humans. A human will find various kinds of freedom. The facticity which it is lacking the freedom for Silver Blackthorn is the facticity of the environment in the country.

*The thinkwatches are complicated devices but logical at least. The devices remind us of what we need to do each day and when each night's curfew is. (p.7)*

One of Silver's facticity of tools is the *thinkwatch*. *Thinkwatch* is one of the important tools for people in England. Everyone has to wear it. It is a device to communicate, make a schedule, and set alarm. Silver has to use it



every day and everywhere. As if it is already part of Silver's body of sixteen years old. Even, when Reckoning day comes, the Kingsman will look at the *thinkwatch* to check the teenagers who will join the test.

The *thinkwatch* will show which class is for the people. The Elite's *thinkwatch* has black color with the faint symbol of a crown to symbolize the top of society. The Member has an orange color with a lightning bolt to symbolize industry and productivity. Inter has blue color marked with a sword, while Trog has yellow color inscribed with a small sickle. Moreover, Silver is a Member. Therefore, after the Reckoning result come out, her *thinkwatch* turns from grey to orange.

The facticity of the *thinkwatch* may limit Silver's freedom. The ministry made a sophisticated system to linked people's *thinkwatch* with the government. However, according to Sartre, a human is freedom itself. Therefore, with Silver's skill to learn and fix the electronics in the gully, she uses her freedom to know how the *thinkwatch* works. Even though she is actually may manipulate the *thinkwatch* when the Reckoning comes, she chooses not to do that. She is afraid that the government will know about it and arrest her.

*I check my thinkwatch but, as I guess would happen, the communication function isn't working. (p.86)*

Furthermore, the facticity of the environment that limiting the freedom of Silver Blackthorn is the environment in the castle. Silver is not free in the castle. On the first day of becoming an Offering, the fleeting thought of Silver

was wanted to tell her mother that she has already arrived in the castle. However, the *thinkwatch* cannot be used to communicate in the castle. It inhibits Silver to talk with her mother and Opie.

Besides, according to Sartre, a human is freedom itself. Silver uses her skill to hack the camera. She is trying to make the camera can't identify her for a few seconds so that Silver can use that opportunity to escape. In the last chapter, when Silver succeeds to escape. The only hope she wishes is that the *thinkwatch* can work again to communicate.

It shows that Silver doesn't give up on the situations and conditions. Even though the ministry made a sophisticated system of the security system in the castle, Silver tries to control the environment by learning how the cameras in Windsor Castle work. She tries to link her *thinkwatch* with cameras. It proves that in the end, Silver as a human being will find various ways to gain her freedom.

#### **d. Fellowman**

The fact about the existence of another human being is unavoidable. The existence of another person with the background will affect human response to one person. Even, the background that is not chosen by a human can affect another human being. It links to subjectivity, the relationship of subject and object. A human always sees another human as their objects while he sees himself as a subject. When all human being sees another human like this, there will be overlaps for who are the objects and subjects.

*The king requires that each of the for realms offer him four Elites -two boys and two girls – and two Members, one from each gender, every year as an Offering. Your remaining family is showed with credits, rations, and gifts in exchange, but you never see them again as you spend the rest of your life in service to the king. He only takes one Inter from each area and two Trogs in total, alternating between districts. (p. 24)*

Silver sees King Victor as an unavoidable subject. King Victor uses his power to objectify others. He sees other people as an object. Therefore, King Victor made Reckoning, a test for everyone to decide their place in society. There are four places in society, namely: Elite, Member, Inter, and Trog. Then, he obligates the chosen teenagers to live in the castle and becoming an Offering for him.

King Victor chooses some teenagers to be an Offering. No citizen knows what the teenagers do when they are becoming an Offering. They only know that the teenagers who become an Offering will never return home because people assume they will live happily in the castle and work for the sake of the King and country. Silver finds that becoming an Offering is her unavoidable fate.

Silver realizes that she is one of the objects for the king. At first, Silver felt intimidated by the charisma of King Victor. Then, her perspective on the king is not the same anymore because, first, King Victor kills Wray on the first day Silver becomes an offering. The mistake is not a big problem. It's only because Wray knocked his goblet onto the floor and make a clattering while King Victor is talking.

Second, intentionally, the King asks Jela to privately come to him wearing a beautiful dress. Jela will not come back to the dorm until King Victor gets

bored with her. No one really knows what King Victor do to Jela. Some say Jela belongs to the King now. However, Silver can see Jela at the weekly fast sitting next to the king. Jela's eyes looked empty, but one rimmed by heavy purple and black mark that even from a distance looks painful.

Third, the king only gives a piece of bread for the workers in a day. Nevertheless, he has a lot of food in his room. Fourth, once a week he will command the teenagers to have a battle. For him, it is entertainment. Instead, it is scary for teenagers because one of them will die.

Furthermore, Silver found there is no one dares to speak out. They let the King uses his power to do everything to them. Silver finds that this is not right. The existence of the king for Silver is a threat. Therefore, she is trying to defeat the king's subjectivity. It shows that there will be overlaps for who are the objects and subjects. Silver tries to gain her freedom back by devising a plan to fight the king and escape from the kingdom.

*Minister Prime's eyes continue to skim between us, determined for someone to say something. 'I will punish you all if nobody steps forward.' The way he speaks reminds me of the sensation you get when you are ripping something in a half. The tones ripple through you in a way that feels exhilarating, yet a little scary at the same time. Everything he says reeks of power. (p.158)*

The second person who becomes a threat to Silver is Minister Prime. He becomes the accomplice of King Victor. Before becoming an Offering, Silver knows the Minister Prime by watching it on the television. Minister Prime is the spokesperson of the King; he delivers what the King wants to say to the citizens. He is the one who greets the teenagers in the castle. Moreover, He

acquaints the teenagers about their works and accompanies them to go around the castle on the first day the teenagers become Offering.

Minister Prime is always the King's right hand. When something is not right, he will come to fix the problem. For example, someone is getting caught stealing the food. Minister Prime will come to the dormitory and ask the teenagers to gather in a hall. First, Minister Prime asks who the responsible person is. Then, if there is no one admits it, he will directly punish all of them.

In this case, Minister Prime sees the teenagers as an object. It becomes Silver's problem towards her existence. Minister Prime uses his power to objectify the teenagers, including Silver. He looks at Silver as someone who offers herself to the king. Besides, the reality is being an Offering is not Silver's choice. It is the facticity that limits her freedom of choice.

According to Sartre, freedom of choice is very important. If human beings don't have a choice, they will become an 'object' for other people. In this novel, Silver becomes an object for King Victor and Minister Prime. Therefore, as a human being Silver tries to obtain her existence to be a subject by looking at the King and Minister Prime as an object.

#### **e. Death**

Every human being will end his existence by death. Because of death, all human existence will be gone. Sartre described the death as a boundary just like a wall. At the time, a human may knock against the wall beyond his



freedom to choose. Therefore, his freedom is disconnected. Furthermore, from other people's point of view, seeing someone dead means a victory. It makes someone who died as an object of someone else that is still alive.

*When they're caught, they disappear for days and then you might see them again at a banquet where they are made an example of to warn everyone what happens if you try to get away. You can't even kill yourself. Someone tried but the doctors kept them alive. (p. 131)*

On the first day of Reckoning, Silver finds an unexpected tragedy. At night, the teenagers gathered at the hall to have a feast. There are a lot of foods and drinks that Silver never imagined before the Offering. Besides, in the middle of the feast, King Victor kills Wray, one of the Offering teenagers. It is only because Wray made a clattering noise after dropping the goblet.

The Windsor castle accommodates everything as the King wants, including death. Some teenagers from the last Offering already tried to escape from the castle. No one succeeded. However, when they are caught, the King will hold them in prison. Then, they will be taken out in banquet as a warning for the other teenagers not to trying to escape. It makes Silver realizes that she has no freedom anymore.

Even, nobody can kill or do harm to themselves in Windsor castle due to strict security; they will die at the time the King wants them to die. However, the King asks the doctor to keep them alive. It is the reason why Silver needs time to decide to run away and get her freedom. Because once she died, it will be the end of her existence.

According to Sartre, seeing someone die means a victory. It makes someone who dies as an object of someone else that is still alive. In this novel, King Victor is the one who asks the Kingsman to kill the Offerings. Seeing them dying make him laugh and excited. Even, it is entertainment for him. It shows that King Victor has victory. After the teenager's death, it depends on King Victor of what will be done to them.

Based on the finding of this study to answer the second research question about Silver Blackthorn's existence in Reckoning novel, the researcher concludes that Silver Blackthorn's freedom in the novel is restricted and it threatens her existence. It is because Silver faced some facticity in her condition.

Facticity is an unavoidable reality that may cause a lack of Silver's freedom. However, freedom is very essential to a human being as it can be identified as human existence itself. Sartre links his theory of existentialism existence precedes essence to his theory of freedom and responsibility. He said that human is freedom. Therefore, the facticity's Silver had in this novel threatens her existence.

In this novel, the researcher finds that Silver faces facticity of place, past, environment, fellowmen, and death. Moreover, Facticity is something that is outside of Silver's plans and choices. There are some facticity which cannot be eliminated. Besides, it can forget a moment, manipulate, and manage.

Silver's place, Martindale Village, the Gully, and Windsor Castle are fact that Silver cannot eliminate but can manage. For the facticity of past like the history, Silver can forget for a moment. Moreover, Silver can manage facticity of environment as her strength. Even though the King block Silver from communicating through the *thinkwatch*, Silver uses the *thinkwatch* to hack the camera in the castle.

However, the fellowmen is the hardest facticity Silver faced because there is King and Minister Prime. It is about the relationship between subject and object. The King and Minister Prime always see the Offerings as their objects. In contrast, Silver tries to see the King and Minister Prime as her objects. Silver finds that this is not right. The existence of the king for Silver is a threat.

According to Sartre, seeing someone die means a victory. It makes someone who dies as an object of someone else that is still alive. In this novel, King Victor is the one who asks the Kingsman to kill the Offerings. It makes someone who died as an object of the King that is still alive.

Furthermore, as a human being, Silver has some characteristics of existentialism in herself. The facticity that cannot be eliminated may limit her freedom. However, Silver tries to gain her freedom by not giving up on the facticity. Besides, she uses some facticity to be her strength.

## B. Discussion

This research found twenty data of Silver blackthorn's characteristics of existentialism based on Sartre theory. There are five data of subjectivity, six data of conscious being in the world, three data of contingency, three data of anti-materialism, and three data of humanity. Moreover, there are eleven data of Silver Blackthorn's facticity. There are four data of place, two data of past, two data of environment, two data of fellowman, and one data of death.

With previous studies, which used the same theory but with different object, it was found that Garry (2008), Raina (2017) and Baker (2014) used theory of existentialism theory to know how the character knows about her existence and reality. Ulfa (2017) used the Sartre theory about the characteristics of existentialism in novel. Hasan (2014) applied existentialism theory to know about the process of existentialism in novel. However, Ann (2011) used both Sartre and Camus theory.

Furthermore, this study has the same theory about characteristics of existentialism as Ulfa (2017) used. However, in the previous studies, no one have examined the facticity that a character may face. According to Gardner, the term Facticity signifies the human condition of being situated in particularity (p.99). Thus, this research found the facticity that the main character faced in the novel is restricted her freedom and it threatens her existence.

Furthermore, as a human being, Silver has some characteristics of existentialism in herself. The facticity that cannot be eliminated may limit her

freedom. However, Silver tries to gain her freedom by not giving up on the facticity. Besides, she uses some facticity to be her strength.





## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Finally, the researcher has arrived at the next chapter consisting of conclusions and suggestions. In this chapter, researchers will provide conclusions related to the analysis done in the previous chapter. Researchers will also provide suggestions related to this research for readers who will use the same theory and objects.

#### A. Conclusion

Based on the finding to answer the first research question about Silver Blackthorn's characteristics of existentialism, the researcher concludes that there are five characteristics of existentialism of Silver Blackthorn in this novel. They are subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, and humanity. However, there is no faith as one of the existentialism characteristics.

Silver's judgment towards the Reckoning is a moment that she is waiting for. She knows her existence as a Member after taking the Reckoning test. Also, Silver brings responsibility as the Martindale's village representative. Moreover, Silver doesn't agree with Reckoning which places people in society based on the test and the way King Victor treats bad Offerings. Furthermore, being an offering makes Silver found her own value.

After doing the analysis, to answer the second research question about Silver Blackthorn's existence in *Reckoning* novel, the researcher concludes that Silver Blackthorn's freedom in the novel is restricted and it threatens her existence. It is because Silver faced some facticity in her condition. It is an unavoidable reality that may cause a lack of Silver's freedom. In this novel, the researcher finds that Silver faces the facticity of place, past, environment, fellowmen, and death.

Furthermore, as a human being, Silver has some characteristics of existentialism in herself. The facticity that cannot be eliminated may limit her freedom. However, Silver tries to gain her freedom by not giving up on the facticity. Besides, she uses some facticity to be her strength.

## **B. Suggestion**

Firstly, through this research, the researcher hopes that may take good lessons and improve the reader's knowledge about existentialism. It is recommended for the readers especially the literature students to understand the existence of a human being especially, the characteristics of existentialism such as subjectivity, conscious being in the world, contingency, anti-materialism, humanity, and faith. Also, it contains the facticity of human beings such as place, past, environment, fellowmen, and death.

Secondly, Due to the limitation, this research only focused on the form existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre in *Reckoning* Novel and could not broadly explain about other related topics. Therefore, to enrich the development of

literary criticism in *Reckoning* Novel, the researcher would give some suggestion to the next researcher.

The *Reckoning* novel is one of the numerous books written by Kerry Wilkinson. It is important to know that this literary work is rich and could be analyzed through many points of view such as social, economic, psychology, etc. There are many topics that worth to be discussed such as capitalism, feminism, slavery, and so on.

Last, the researcher realizes that literary criticism is not that easy and there might be several mistakes. Therefore, the researcher is waiting for the critics and suggestions from the readers so that the researcher can improve better research in the next opportunity.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE



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