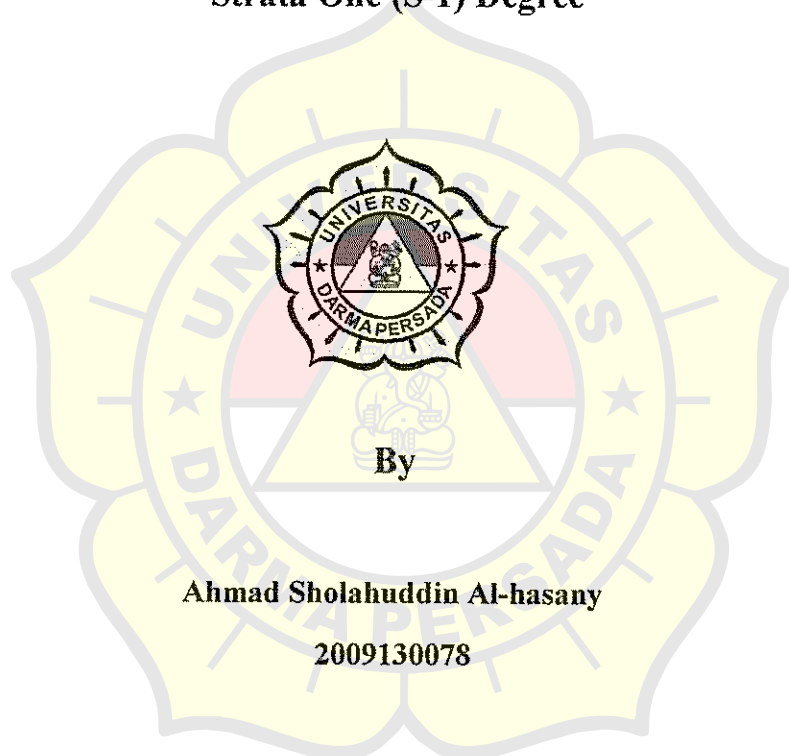


**THE REFLECTION OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THE
CHARACTER OF SILAS MARNER IN NOVEL *SILAS MARNER*
BY GEORGE ELIOT**

TERM PAPER

**Submitted in part-fulfilling for obtaining
Strata One (S-1) Degree**



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STRATA ONE (S-1) OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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2013

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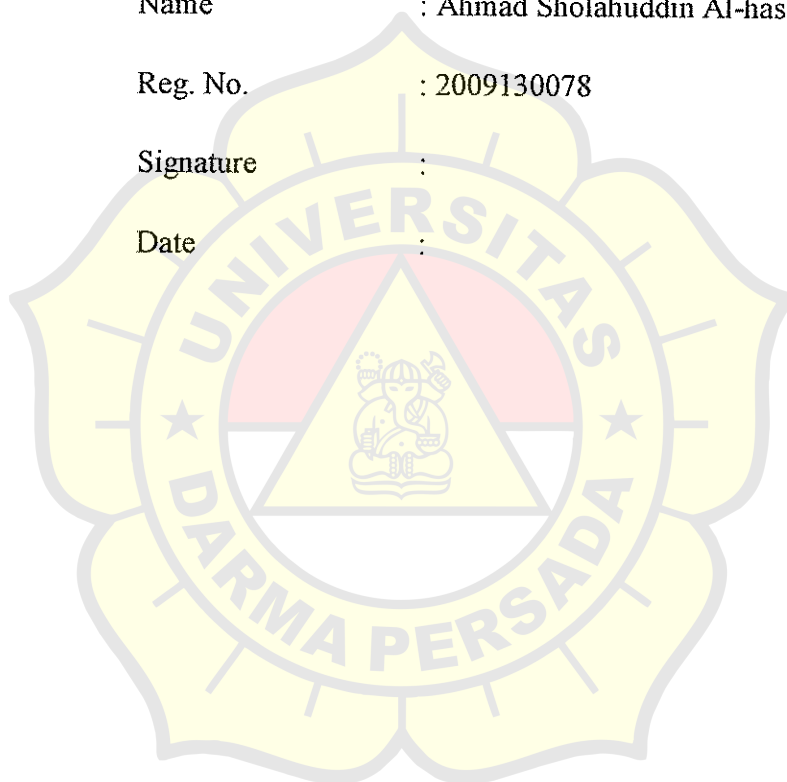
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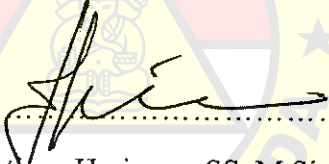
Reg. No. : 2009130078

Study Program : English Department/Strata One Degree (S-1)

The title of the term-paper : THE REFLECTION OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THE CHARACTER OF SILAS MARNER IN NOVEL SILAS MARNER BY GEORGE ELIOT

Has been approved by Advisor, Reader, and Head of English Department to be tested in front of the Board of Examiners on _____ at the English Department, the Faculty of Letters, University of Darma Persada.

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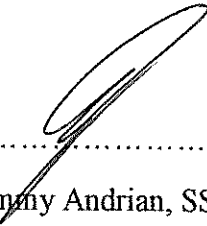

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PREFACE

All praises be to Allah, The One who brings everything from non-existence to existence in this world; God who has been giving his blessings and mercy to me, the writer of this term-paper to finish my research entitled *The Reflection of Existentialism in The Character of Silas Marner in Silas Marner* novel by George Eliot. Shalawat and Salam are be upon to The Greatest Leader in the world, Prophet Muhammad SAW who brought peacefulness in this universe.

This term-paper is submitted in part fulfilling for obtaining Strata One (S-1) degree in English Department University of Darma Persada. I have spent many times to finish this term-paper and make it good as possible as I could. There are many unforgettable moments that I have experienced during my study for about four years in this university, those really are priceless to me.

I am so grateful to all my lecturers in English Department who have guided and supported me. In finishing this research, I really give my regards and thanks for people who have helped me.

1. Agustinus Hariyana, SS, M.Si as an Advisor who has spent his time to guide me in finishing this term-paper. He always gives me an advice to do my best in finishing this research in order to get the best result.
2. Tommy Andrian, SS, M.Hum as the Head of English Department, my Academic Advisor, and also as a Reader of my term-paper. He always give me an advice to finish this research as fast as possible, and I really want to thank him for teaching me "Discourse Analysis", it is the best subject I have ever learned in this university.
3. Syamsul Bachri, SS, M.Si as the Dean of Faculty Letters.
4. All lecturers in English Department who have taught me everything during my study in this university.

5. My dear family, my father H. Hasan Basri who gives me opportunities to finish my study here. Thanks to greatest woman on earth, My Mother H. Ruysdah who never complained raising me as her son, thanks for your endless love and affection to me. I also want to thank to my big family of Al-hasany who always support me doing this term-paper. My nephews and cousins who have given me joy and happiness all this time.
6. My dearest girl, Syadiidah who has been a mood booster for me since the beginning of this term-paper. Thanks for all your support and affection on me.
7. My female friends, Putri Lenggogeny, Stephanie J.J., Radyastuti Oktavianti, Prilla Ludira, Aryza Riesdyanti, Adima Imaningsih, Bacha, Silfiana Riyanti, Siti Aisyah, Hesty Kharisma Dewi, Mijchela, Lala Nabila and Listiyani Nur Hanifa. Thanks for all your supports and suggestions for me, I really appreciate that.
8. My awesome friends, Rosyid Romdhoni, Luhur Tri Pambudi, Reza Fauzi, Asrian Andry, Ade Syahrin Hanifa, Zulkhaidir, Gilang, Ayub, Arab and so on. Thanks for all the jokes and joys all this time, you are amazing guys.

Those names are some of the people who helped and supported me in finishing this term-paper. Thanks for all the joy, joke, advice and happiness you have shared to me all these years, it is really priceless memories and I really appreciate it. This term-paper is far from perfection. Suggestions and criticisms are very welcomed to improve this term-paper.

Jakarta, May 12, 2013

Writer

Ahmad Sholahuddin

ABSTRACT

Name : Ahmad Sholahuddin Al-hasany
Study Program : English Department S-1
Title : The Reflection of Existentialism in the Character of Silas Marner

The term paper discusses about the theme of literary work of novel through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Through the intrinsic approach, the concepts which being applied are: characterization telling and showing method, setting, and plot; and for the extrinsic approach, it is applied philosophical approach of existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre. This term-paper is categorized as a qualitative research which combined *Silas Marner* novel by George Eliot as the primary source supported with some of the literature concepts, theories, and definitions which are relevant as secondary sources.

Keywords: Silas Marner, Reflection, Philosophical, Existentialism, Jean Paul Sartre.

ABSTRAK

Nama : Ahmad Sholahuddin Al-hasany
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Judul :The Reflection of Existentialism in the Character of Silas Marner

Skripsi ini membahas tema dari sebuah karya sastra berupa novel menggunakan pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Melalui pendekatan intrinsik, diterapkan beberapa konsep, seperti: perwatakan tokoh menggunakan metode tidak langsung (telling) dan metode langsung (showing), latar, dan alur; dan untuk pendekatan ekstrinsik, digunakan pendekatan filosofis eksistensialisme Jean Paul Sartre. Skripsi ini dikategorikan ke dalam riset kualitatif yang menggabungkan novel Silas Marner sebagai sumber utama yang didukung oleh konsep-konsep karya sastra, teori-teori, dan juga definisi yang relevan sebagai sumber sekunder.

Kata kunci: Silas Marner, Cerminan, Filosofis, Eksistensialisme, Jean Paul Sartre.

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SCHEME OF THE RESEARCH

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

The most valuable thing for human being in this world is existence. Presence or existence of human is the most fundamental for their selves. Existence makes human presence and became a phenomenon in this world, the existence also help human to find meaning in life that he/she lived. Based on the statements above, philosopher decided to create a theory that examines human's existence, it is called Existentialism. Existentialism is a catch-all term for those philosophers who consider the nature of the human condition as a key philosophical problem. Through this new theory, philosophers hope that human will understand what the true meaning of existence and how to apply this thought in their life.

Mary Anne Evans (22 November 1819 – 22 December 1880)¹, as known as by her pseudonym *George Eliot*, was an English novelist, journalist and translator, and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She is the author of seven novels, such as *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), and *Silas Marner* (1861). The story of this novel is about Silas Marner, the weaver in the English countryside village of Raveloe in the early 19th century; he has ended up there because the members of his religious sect in Lantern Yard falsely accused him of stealing church's money. In Raveloe, he was redundant and lived his life pennywise as possible until he met a cute little child which made his life worth it. Silas met Eppie for the first time when Molly, Godfrey's secret wife, making her way to the Cass' house to reveal their secret marriage. But unfortunately, on their journey, Molly who is a junkie took a draft of opium and passed out by the road, this happened near Silas'

¹“George Eliot”; May 15, 2012; available from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Eliot.

cottage. Suddenly, the little child came in through the open door and falls asleep at Silas' hearth. When she awakes, Silas goes to the Squire's house to find the doctor with the little child in his arms. At that time, Godfrey realized that the little child is his daughter, but he could not admit it because if he did that, his marriage with Nancy would be fail. When the doctor declares that Molly is dead, Godfrey was happy because his secret is safe, and then he let Silas adopts the child. Day after day, Silas increasingly attached to the child and named her Eppie, who then become the bridge for Silas to interact with the villagers of Raveloe.

The novel jumps ahead sixteen years. Godfrey has married Nancy, but they were childless. Their one daughter died at birth. At one of the evenings, they come to Silas's cottage to confess and claim Eppie as their daughter. However, Eppie tells them that she would rather stay with Silas than with them. After hearing Eppie's decision, Godfrey and Nancy leave disappointedly. At the end of the novel, on summer, Eppie is married to Aaron Winthrop, Dolly's son. Aaron moved to Silas's cottage. Silas, Eppie, and Aaron live happily ever after.

The reasons why I choose this novel are because the setting which is at 19th century in England is so interesting. At that time, people of England still believe in superstition and then the story which seems complicated make me want to explore more about this novel. The main problem that I am going to analyze from this novel is the reflection of existentialism in the character of Silas Marner. There are many unpleasant incidents in Silas's life that affect his point of view about other people. That is the reason why he became an existentialist.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, I identify the problem of the research is: Existentialism within Silas Marner's character. I assume that the assumption of this research is: "*The Reflection of Existentialism in the Character of Silas Marner*".

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, I limit the problem in analyzing the reflection of existentialism on Silas Marner. The theories and concepts I use are – intrinsic approach -characterization, plot, and setting, through extrinsic approach, philosophical approach-existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem is that whether the theme of this novel is *The Reflection of Existentialism in The Character of Silas Marner*. To answer the questions, there are some steps that I take.

1. Can the methods of *characterization* be used to analyze the novel?
2. Can the *plot* and *setting* be used to analyze the novel?
3. Can the concept of philosophy approach of *existentialism* be used to analyze the novel?
4. Can the theme of the novel be reinforced by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

E. Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the research, the objective of this research is to prove whether the theme of this novel is *The Reflection of Existentialism in The Character of Silas Marner*. To fulfill this purpose, I had to take some steps,

1. To analyze the characterization by using methods of characterization.
2. To analyze the plot and setting in the novel.
3. To analyze the novel by using the concepts of philosophical approach-existentialism.
4. To reinforce theme by using the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

F. Framework of the Theories

Based on the above mentioned, in this research I use the concepts of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. For the intrinsic, I use literary approaches. Meanwhile, for the extrinsic approach, I use the philosophical approach.

1. Intrinsic Approach

The word *intrinsic* means something that is related to the essential nature of a thing. Through this approach, I use the concepts of characterization, setting, and plot.

A. Characterization

The word *character* actually applies to any individual in a literary work. The characters in fiction usually connected with their relationship to plot, and they were described by whether or not they undergo significant character change. Generally, the characters are divided into two kinds, the central character of the plot or the major, known as protagonist, and the opponent, the character against whom the protagonist struggles or contends, known as the antagonist. Characters² in fiction can also be distinguished on the basis of whether they demonstrate the capacity to develop or change as the result of their experiences.

In defining the characters in the novel, I use these methods:

1. Direct Method (*Telling*)

Direct Method (*Telling*) depends on exposition and direct commentary by the author. In telling – a method preferred and practiced by many older fiction writers – the writer's guidance is very much in evidence. Direct Method consists of

² James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hooper, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), p. 26.

Characterization through the use of Names, Appearance, and Characterization by the Author.³

a. Characterization through the use of names

Names are often used to provide essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant or controlling traits. Other ones are given names that reinforce (or sometimes are in contrast to) their physical appearance. Names can also contain literary or historical allusions that aid in characterization by means of association.⁴

b. Characterization through appearance

Although in real life most of us are aware that appearances are often deceiving, in the world of fiction details of appearance (what a character wears and how he looks) often provide essential clues to character.⁵

c. Characterization by the author

In the most customary form of telling, the author interrupts the narrative and reveals directly, through a series of editorial comments, the nature and personality of the characters, including the thoughts and feelings that enter and pass through the characters' minds.⁶

2. Indirect Method (*Showing*)

By contrast, there are essentially two methods of indirect characterization by showing: characterization through dialogue (what characters say) and characterization through action (what characters do).⁷

³*Ibid.*, pp. 27 *et seq.*

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁵*Ibid.*, p. 29.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 30.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 31.

a. Characterization through dialogue

The task of establishing character through dialogue is not a simple one. Some characters are careful and guarded in what they say: they speak only by indirection, and what we must infer from their words what they actually mean. Others are open and candid; they tell us, or appear to tell us, exactly what is on their minds. Some characters are given to chronic exaggeration and overstatement; others to understatement and subtlety. It is a rare work of fiction, whose author does not employ dialogue in some way to reveal, establish and reinforce character.⁸

b. Characterization through action

Character and action, as we have noted are often regarded as two sides of the same coin. To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to examine the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the characters, about their unconscious emotional and psychological states as well as about their conscious attitudes and values.⁹

B. Setting

Authors set their characters in a “world” with a particular location in place, time and culture. Setting¹⁰ consists of: physical, temporal and cultural.

1. Physical Setting: The physical aspects of setting include all of the places where the action takes place. It includes the geography, the climate, and the physical objects. Physical setting may change from scene to scene.
2. Temporal Setting: The temporal aspects of setting consist of three things: time in history, time of year, and time of day. Time greatly impacts character motivation and action.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 32.

⁹*Ibid.*, p. 34.

¹⁰Griffith, Kelley. *Narrative Fiction An Introduction and Anthology*. (Texas: Harcourt Brace Co, 1994) p. 15.

3. Cultural Setting: The cultural setting includes patterns of behavior and beliefs that dominate the society in which the characters live. Family relationships, moral values, political systems, class structures, gender roles and race relations are all part of the cultural environment.

C. Plot

Plot is the deliberately arranged sequence of interrelated events that constitute the basic narrative structure of a novel or a short story. The plot has five distinct sections as follows:

a. Exposition

The exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the action. At this point, the author may also introduce the characters and the conflict, or the potential for conflict. The exposition may be accomplished in a single sentence or paragraph, or in the case of some novels, occupy an entire chapter or more.¹¹

b. Rising Action

This section breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict. The conflict is then developed gradually and intensified.¹²

c. Crisis/Climax

The crisis is the moment at which the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity; it is the turning point of the plot, directly precipitating its resolution.¹³

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 16.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 17.

¹³*Ibid.*

d. Falling Action

Once the crisis, or turning point has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion.¹⁴

e. Resolution

The final section of the plot is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new equilibrium or stability. The resolution is also referred to as the *conclusion*.¹⁵

D. Theme

Theme¹⁶ is one of those critical terms that mean very different things to different people. To some, who think of literature mainly as vehicle for teaching, preaching, propagating a favorite idea, or encouraging some form of correct conduct, theme may mean the moral or lesson that can be extrapolated from the work. Theme in literature, whether it takes the form of a brief a meaningful insight or a comprehensive vision of life, can be said to represent the vehicle an author uses to establish a relationship with the larger world in which he or she lives and works. It is the author's way of communicating and sharing ideas, perceptions, and feeling with his readers or, as is so often the case, of probing and exploring with them the puzzling questions of human existence, most of which do not yield neat, tidy, and universally acceptable answers.

2. Extrinsic Approach (Philosophical Approach)

Philosophy¹⁷ is an activity people undertake when they seek to understand fundamental truths about themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationships to the world and to each other. The term of philosophy comes from an

¹⁴*Ibid.*

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶*Ibid.*, p. 61.

¹⁷"Philosophy"; 22 May 2013; available from <http://philosophy.fsu.edu/content/view/full/36588>

ancient Greek many centuries ago. The ancient Greek invented philosophy as a way of thinking about the big question in life. From the nature of reality to the quest for happiness, from how to build a good society to makes life worth living. In order to make philosophy easy to learn, philosophers divide it into many sub-fields, such as: epistemology, logic, metaphysics, ethics, and aesthetics.

The word "philosophy" comes from an Ancient Greek *φιλοσοφία* (philosophia), which literally means "love of wisdom". Many people regard Socrates (469 BC – 399 BC), as a founding father of western philosophy, especially in Greece. During his life, he never wrote philosophical texts, biography about him, or even his own thoughts, his loyal students are the ones who wrote all of them.

a. Existentialism

Existentialism is the philosophical and cultural movement that holds the starting point of philosophical thinking must be the individual and the experiences of the individual.¹⁸

According to Jean-Paul Sartre¹⁹, 21 June 1905-15 April 1980, the French existentialist philosopher, playwright, novelist, screenwriter, political activist, biographer, and literary critic and as one of the key figures in the philosophy of existentialism, existentialism is where anxiety projected and the vanity of the nature of existence itself. It hypostatizes specific historical conditions of human existence into ontological and metaphysical characteristics.

Sartre talks about the freedom of human to give signification to the world²⁰. He said that even he did not want to be born, but the fact he is in the world without his own will, so that he cannot free himself from his responsibility. Sartre said that the central

¹⁸"Existentialism"; March 21, 2012; available from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Existentialism>,

¹⁹"Jean Paul Sartre"; March 21, 2012; available from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Paul_Sartre,

²⁰A Setyo Wibowo, *Filsafat Eksistensialisme. (Indonesia: Penerbit Kanisius (Anggota IKAPI), 2011), page 115.*

theme of all existentialist philosophies is that “*L’existence precede l’essence*” (existence precedes essence). By this Sartre intends to convey the view that man first exist without purpose or definition, he finds himself in the world and only then, a reaction to experiences defines the meaning of his life. He also said that the freedom of human and its responsibility is not according to religion or autonomic, not because copying something or by order. Human should determine their own what is their freedom and responsibility in front of situation that clearly new, therefore he argues that since there is no God who give man a purpose, it is up to the individual to choose the life that they think best. Through that freedom, human create their own essence, it seems in his quotation “Man is nothing else but that which he makes of himself”. Through this quotation, Sartre stated that human determine their life with what they have done in their life, if they have done nothing in their life, they were worthless and cannot be considered as “Human”.

There are several ideas in Sartre’s existentialism, such as *responsibility* and *hell is other*.

The first idea in Sartre’s existentialism is *responsibility*. Even though Sartre stated that “human is condemned to be free”, but we as human being still have the responsibility for the acts and choices in our life, because there is a consequence for the choices we made. If we talk about human freedom to act and choose, we cannot separate responsibility in our life. Therefore, presupposes freedom and responsibility are separated from each other is an abstraction that cannot be justified. Freedom will be very meaningful if accompanied by a responsibility that goes in every human action and choices they have decided. In order to make responsibility clear, Sartre alone stated “he is what he makes himself; and for he makes himself he alone is responsible”. Through this point of view, Sartre wanted to explain to us that human are given the freedom to determine their own, but humans should not forget the responsibility for the choices that they have chosen.

The second idea is *hell is other*²¹. It is one idea that proposed by Sartre's existentialism. For Sartre, he considered *other* as hell because their presences always make us as their objects, it can happen because other people are *conscious beings* so they can judge or structure our existence. There are many people who oppose this idea; they even described Sartre's existentialism as *anti-social philosophy*, but that is the reality that we find in his existentialism's theory.

G. Methods of the Research

Based on the theoretical framework, I use the research method with variety of qualitative; type of research literature, the research tendency is interpretative or analyzing by method of data collection from literary texts, notes, journal, and analysis of documents and materials.

H. Benefits of the Research

Based on the methods of research, the benefits of this research are: First, it could be beneficial for students or researchers who want to explore more deeply about *Silas Marner* novel. Second, this research may be beneficial because it has been done through the new thought and perspective by applying the concept of philosophical approach of existentialism which can show something new for other researchers.

I. Systematic Organization of the Research

Related with the title of this research, the systematic presentation is written as follows:

CHAPTER ONE : INTRODUCTION. It consists of: Background of the Problem, Identification of Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the Problem, The Objectives of the Research, Framework of the Theories, The Method of the Research, The

²¹Jean Paul Sartre, *being and nothingness* (New York: philosophical library, 1956) p.275

Benefits of the Research, and Systematic Organization of the Research.

CHAPTER TWO : THE ANALYSIS *SILAS MARNER* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH. It consists of: Characterization (telling and showing) analysis, Setting and Plot.

CHAPTER THREE : THE REFLECTION OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THE CHARACTER OF SILAS MARNER. It consists of analysis of theme by using the result of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

CHAPTER FOUR : CONCLUSION. It consists of conclusion which shows that the theme of this novel is THE REFLECTION OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THE CHARACTER OF SILAS MARNER presented an overview of the research subjects in the previous chapters as well as implications from studies of other variables.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scheme of the Research

Attachment

Abstract