

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Jostein Gaarder's The Solitaire Mystery and Antoine De-Saint Exupery's The Little Prince, I can see that both stories contain allegory that present a satirical comment to a group of people. The satirical comment is pointed to the people who cannot fight for their own freedom to establish their own existence.

Each of the stories uses a seemingly weak or useless main character because he is oppressed by the central group in the society. The seemingly weak or useless character becomes marginal individual because he belongs outside the central group. In The Solitaire Mystery, the Joker is the marginal individual who is oppressed by Frode and the 52 card people, while in The Little Prince, the Prince is the marginal individual who is oppressed by the adults. The Joker, in the solitaire game, is a useless card. The Prince is described as a boy. In the story, the adults like to direct children because children, who have great imagination and dreams, are thought to be weak and silly.

The act of oppression and limitation of freedom can happen because there are different classes within the society. They are created by the people who

believe that differentiation is important to run the society well. The differentiation is considered to be the stratum in society. The people who agree to the stratum become the central group, but those who do not will be the marginal individual. Yet, the differentiation can become a discrimination when the central group uses their power to limit the freedom of the marginal individual. The central group treats the marginal individual unfairly because he considered to be dangerous and able to ruin the stratum in the society. For the central group, if the stratum is ruined, peace will also be disturbed. The central group will give orders and they will oppress the marginal individual to run the orders. The marginal individual rebels because he wants to be free from the shadow of the central group, who is considered to be his oppressor. For the marginal individual, to be free from the oppressor is the only way to reach happiness.

In both stories, the marginal individual is described as the people who have the ability to exist. Although they seem weak, they actually have the power to lead their own life. In other words, they can establish their own existence. They can do whatever they like without much fear of losing things. The pressure of the central group toward makes them get stronger. They are not influenced by the power of the central group because they no longer follow the central group's rules or concept. As a result, they can create their own essence. However, they have to commit to their choice and realize the consequences of their action.

In achieving their freedom, both protagonist as the marginal individual display different action. The Joker decides to eliminate his oppressor, while the Prince decides to commit suicide to escape from his oppressor. Although the

actions of the marginal individual to get freedom in both stories are different, they are similarly considered to be the people who are able to exist and to be powerful because they can obtain their own freedom. Freedoms for both protagonists are the key to happiness. In other words, both protagonists have the same purpose although their act to achieve it is different. In The Solitaire Mystery, the Joker as the marginal individual succeeds in achieving his goal, which is to be free as an individual. He survives oppression from the central group. In The Little Prince, the marginal individual cannot endure the great pressure from the oppressor. The Prince, who wants to return to his own world but is unable to bear the long journey, finally decides to take suicide.

In The Solitaire Mystery, the words *solitaire* can also be connected to solitary, which means living or being alone. Solitaire can also mean a game, usually a card game, which is designed to be played by one player only. The Joker, from the beginning until the end of the story, is a character who is condemned to live alone. In the island, there is only one ruler, Frode. The Joker does not like this fact because the ruler does not make his life meaningful. Unwilling to become a person who is artificial and controlled, the Joker fights against the rules so that he can enjoy his sovereignty. The Joker wants to have his freedom to play his own part, without being controlled by others.

Related to the four major aspects of existentialism, the figurative meaning of the story shows that every individual's existence basically depends on himself/herself. Individuals who always depend on others and cannot create the

purpose of their life can be considered as parasites, which means that their existence is doubtful.

In The Little Prince, the allegorical character of the Prince is depicted very individualistic. He refuses to live like the adults who depend on figures as a false concept to get happiness. As the central group, the adults are strong; nevertheless, as individuals, they are weak because they do not have their own purpose in life. However, the figurative character in The Little Prince may become a reminder that in reality, children grow up to be adults, who naturally will interact with one another. Children cannot stay forever in their own world, which is full of happiness and has little oppression. When grown up, they have to face others' influence and to hold their own essence by maintaining their freedom of thinking. Those who are unable to resist others' influence will lose their existence.

Both novels have a satirical comment toward the central group in society, which can be seen from the description of the central group in the text. The members of the central group apparently have a great power, but their life is conditioned and controlled by their own norms and rules. They are afraid of being exiled from the community or living in an improper place if they are disobedient.

The members of the central group depicted to lose their existence. They live in seemingly proper place, which makes them afraid of losing the peace and the comfortable life. They also cannot endure living in alienation so they live with total obedience to the rules and norms. Their way of thinking is shaped to be

objective in stagnancy. They cannot make their own choices because they are restricted by the objectivity determined by the existing norms. Likewise, they cannot create their own essence. Without choosing, they cannot commit to anything.

Seen from the existentialism theory, people's action and reaction toward their surroundings may create a contrast between the powerful and powerless groups. The powerful people can achieve their freedom and happiness. The marginal individual in both stories, although they seem weak and oppressed by the central group, are actually powerful people because they manage to achieve their freedom and happiness. The central group, who shows greater power and quantity of members within the society, consists of individuals who are actually weak because they only follow the existing norms, without considering their own essence. In conclusion, it is people's action and reaction –and not their quantity nor position- that make the most important factor in the success of their attempt to be free and powerful.