

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Literary works always talk about humans with all their problems. Literature is a creative activity, which results in a form of art either in the form of writing or expression. As a work of fiction, literary works still describe a reality created by an author by exiling the work. Isolation of the setting, characters and tends to leave the plot behind.

According to Pradopo (1994: 26) Literary works as a description of the world and human life, the main criteria placed on these literary works are truth, or everything the author wants. As fiction, literary works are expressive, imaginative, and entertaining. Poetry and prose (novels and dramas) are literary works that contain these elements.

A novel is a long form of prose that contains a series of stories about the life of a person and the people around them by highlighting the characters and characteristics of each actor in the stories told by non-fiction literary works such as biographies, autobiographies, essays, and others. . With these characteristics, novels are the main choice of some authors to describe an event that interests them.

Absurdity is a model of thought developed by Albert Camus which is still preserved in literary models as well as in life itself. Absurdity is a form of assessment of the vagueness of life which by itself takes away the choices of

human life itself. Such thoughts tend to place humans as rigid subjects and do not have some sort of determination for their lives.

This principle is also reflected in literary works, known as absurd literary works. Absurd literary works are literary works that do not make sense, it is difficult to predict when they play the characters because of the views, thoughts or styles of the authors.

Absurdity in life is something that cannot be denied and cannot be avoided. In some views, absurdity is often attacked by a model of rebellion which is carried out as a result of conflicting thoughts. Rebellion also takes place in that person.

As illustrated in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom, which as a whole contains many plots which with the general view are very absurd and difficult to understand with an ordinary way of thinking. The absurdity set forth in this novel brings us to a form of life which contains a lot of questions about the meaning of life which often creates conflicts of thought.

The story begins when the main character Charley Bonetto or Chick tries to commit suicide as a form of life uncertainty that he experiences. Charley's suicide plan failed and brought him back to his old house and found a surprising thing. Something that may not be understood by the logic of human life. Chick is reunited with his mother who died eight years ago and strengthens his return as if nothing had happened.

Chick's life is colored by the absurdity of thoughts that arise as a result of his past struggles that are not colored with his present reality. As a child he was

asked by his father to choose between being father's son or mother's son. Chick also chose his father, out of admiration for his father as a man who directly reflects himself. But the reality then changed, Cick's father was involved in an argument with his mother and had to end in a divorce. He, too, feels regretful about his previous decision which directly reflected an absurdity of life or a mismatch.

Based on this case, the researcher then raised the theme of absurdity to analyze the novel "For One More Day", because according to the researcher the absurdity depicted in the novel was very interesting to analyze.

## **1.2 Statement Of Problem**

From the description of the background above, the researcher raises several problem formulations as follows:

**1.2.1** How does the author present the forms of absurdity in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom?

**1.2.2** How does the author present the uprising against absurdity in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom?

## **1.3 Scope Of The Research**

This research is limited to the study of the forms of absurdity and uprising against the absurdity described by the author in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom.

#### **1.4 Objectives Of The Research**

**1.4.1** This is to find the forms of absurdity in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom.

**1.4.2** To find the uprising against absurdity in the novel For One More Day "by Mitch Albom.

#### **1.5 Significance Of The Research**

In this research, it's be used two research significance both theoretically and practically, namely as follows:

**1.5.1** Theoretical significance, this research is expected to broaden the insight of readers about absurdity which in turn can become a continuous knowledge in understanding life.

**1.5.2** Practical significance, this research is expected to be able to assist readers in analyzing the novel For One More Day by Mitch Albom, as well as being a reference point for others at the Faculty of Humanities, Khairun University.

#### **1.6 Review of Related Literature**

To support this research, it tries to find several studies that are related conceptually and the object of research and as an effort to prevent plagiarism.

First, research conducted by Annisa Risma Khairani Lubis (2015) English Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of Sumatra Barat, entitled "The Analysis Of Conflicts In The Novel" For One More Day "By Mitch Albom. This study aims to find the kinds of conflicts that occur in the novel. The focus of this research is: (1) the researcher tries to find conflict models in the

novel, both external and internal conflicts. (2) The researcher describes the causes of the dominant conflict to the main character in the novel.

Second, research conducted by Pramelia Hapsari (2020), Department of Language and Literature Education, Faculty of Languages and Letters, Jakarta State University. This study aims to understand a deep understanding of the absurdity in Amélie Nothomb's novel *Frappe-toi le cœur*. The analysis is carried out first by describing every intrinsic element of the novel, namely plot, characterization, and setting. The next stage is to identify and interpret data that contain elements of absurdity in the form of quotes containing words, phrases, sentences, meanings and context in the data source. The instrument used in this study was the researcher himself with the help of a data analysis working table containing seven elements of absurdity.

Meanwhile this research conducted is entitled Absurdity in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom. It's tries to find forms of absurdity and analyze the uprising against absurdity in the novel "For One More day" by Mitch Albom by using Albert Camus' absurdity perspective.

## **1.7 Theoretical Base**

In a research, of course, requires a theoretical or conceptual framework as an epistemological basis in supporting the validity of a study.

### **1.7.1 Absurdity**

Absurdity is a model of thought that emerged in the early 20th century which is a branch of Sartre's existentialism. The word absurd in the Philosophy dictionary comes from the Latin word *Absurdus* which literally means

"unsightly", "heartless" and "deaf", but is also often interpreted as, "illogical" (Lorens, 2000 : 9-10).

Bertrand Poirot in (Camus. 1999: ix) explains that the absurd is a thing that is always contradictory and contradictory, which is based on a full acceptance of things that cannot be described.

Reasoning about the absurd has existed since before World War I which was introduced through existentialist figures such as Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Husserl, and Jaspers. However, Albert Camus used a different method from his predecessor. Camus connects the chain of existentialism with absurdity (Rais. 2017: 46).

With this description, absurdity can be translated as illogical things that always color everyone's mind. Absurdity is also a conflicting thought due to the existence of two different things, giving rise to choices that cannot be chosen, apart from having to be accepted with complete surrender.

### **1.7.2 Albert Camus Absurdity's Perspective**

Albert Camus once wrote an essay entitled *Myte Sisypus* and from this essay presented the concept of absurdity in a literary work which was later published in 1942 (Rais, 2017: 46). The emergence of absurdities is based on the contradiction between views from within and views from without. In this case, the notion of absurdity refers to events beyond logic that occur in humans. As Camus (1999: 15) puts it:

*“ Demikian pula ada hari-hari, ketika di wajah seorang wanita yang kita kenal betul, kita melihat orang asing dalam wajah orang yang kita cintai, mungkin kita bahkan mengharapkan hal yang membuat kita tiba-tiba*

*merasa begitu kesepian. Namun saatnya belum tiba. Yang pasti satu hal: kepekatan dan keasingan dunia tersebut, itulah yang absurd.”*

From the above expression, basically absurdity refers to events outside human reason or can be interpreted as a form of events that are not generally experienced by a person. Absurdity and not always related to something bad. This is in line with the expression of Rais (2017: 47) which says absurdity and leads to a life process that is inconsistent, meaningless, and without structure. However, what is absurd cannot simply be said as being without meaning or having no value.

Camus also explains that absurdity always leads us to deal with can't fixable contradictions of the mind and instead captures the complete divorce that separates it from the creations. Camus added, as long as the mind is muted in the world hopeless hope, all of it is reflected and composed in the unity of his longing. All that is understandable is the fragments that are crushed and cracked (Camus. 1999:21-22).

Furthermore, from this viewpoint, absurdity is a form of event that is often considered impossible, but can occur in everyday life. Whether it's real life or life that is deliberately created through imagination.

The term absurdity in substance refers to things that are unclear or unclear in which there are various kinds of inconsistencies or contrary to logic in general or mainstream though.

In literature, the nature of absurdity is present in the form of neglect of characterizations, storylines and appearance on themes, as seen in absurd dramas

and absurd novels. In this case, when there is a novel that is displayed in an illogical way, the people in it will have difficulty adjusting to their environment.

### **1.7.3 Forms of Absurdity**

In brief, the forms of absurdity in Albert Camus' *Mite Sisipus* are preceded by a form of alienation. This isolation eventually leads a person to see that life has no meaning, resulting in the desire to commit suicide. However, in the book it is stated that when someone wants to end his life on earth, there is actually hope that can prevent it, but this hope actually brings upheaval to refuse until finally a form of uprising against absurdity emerges.

The form of absurdity has been described in Albert Camus' essay entitled *Mite Sisifus*. The essay discusses forms of absurdity, including forms of alienation, forms of hope and the meaning of life.

This incoherent event can also be experienced by characters in the story who present various phenomena unnaturally. The apparent irregularity in a character who plays this shows that the description of the role of the character presented can form a view that does not make sense, but can occur and this is said to be the absurdity of the character. Albert Camus then put forward several forms of absurdity, namely, forms of alienation, forms of hope and forms of meaning in life.

#### **1.7.3.1 Alienation**

The form of alienation is a human condition that experiences a sense of distrust of the life that is being lived, thus bringing it to a state that can limit itself to the environment. In this case, a person can have an individual nature that is



indifferent to the life around him. This behavior can also lead to someone in a state of isolation, so that it can make it difficult for you to realize your life like a living person who needs interaction. This isolation can manifest in events that do not have faith in the life that is being lived.

The feeling of alienation experienced can arise when humans are in an environment, but someone prefers to prioritize their personal interests (Rais, 2017: 51). Feelings like this directly describe the individualistic character which in itself makes everything strange or something that is not recognized.

Camus (1999: 4) said, the alienation experienced by a person can be the beginning of a form of illogicalness which assumes that suicide is a decision that can be chosen as a solution. The form of alienation can have a major effect on the form of absences and consequences of thoughts and conditions that are reflected in life. Therefore, forms of alienation can be classified through characteristics which include emptiness of the soul, despair and a sense of alienation.

#### **1.7.3.2 Hope**

The form of hope is present in the incoherence experienced by a person. This is related to the events that happen to individuals in living life, but they still have other desires that can provide motivation.

The definition of hope has also been explained in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (online), that hope is the desire of a person who wants to be realized so that it becomes a reality. Therefore, the form of hope has a relationship with the process of human life, in which event someone does not want, basically there are other hopes that can be realized. The manifestation of this form of hope can

encourage a person to be able to interpret life, so that he is able to continue the life process in any situation. In this case, hope can be marked with a sense of what you want to manifest

Every person who lives life will not be separated from the desires that are stuck in someone's heart to be realized. The feeling that has arisen can influence a person's behavior to act in accordance with what he wants to manifest or realize in one's life. In this case, a being who lives in all matters of course cannot be separated from desires which are important hopes as motivation for action. Through motivational encouragement, it can encourage someone to struggle and try to get what is expected. Someone who has the drive and acts with all his efforts is a characteristic that a person has a need to fulfill the feeling that he wants to manifest in life (Camus. 1999:11).

Through this form of hope, people can act with all their efforts both logically and illogically. This is a form of hope that wants to be realized in the form of compulsion, so that all efforts are made without thinking about the results that can have an impact on a person. Therefore, encouragement in a person can be manifested through various actions that are applied in life.

#### **1.7.3.3 Meaning Of Life**

The life process that humans go through has resulted in various events, ranging from fun, touching or events that are basically less acceptable to humans themselves. This also includes the incidence of isolation in the form of absurdities that can produce meaning in the life that is lived. In this case, the meaning of every process that is passed from human life can be interpreted as a form of the

meaning of life. The meaning of life in the sense of absurdity is a form of feasibility of life that experiences incoherence. This can be realized by actions that are contrary to the conditions of the surrounding environment.

*“Kepercayaan kepada makna hidup selalu menyiratkan sebuah tata nilai, suatu pilihan, hal-hal yang lebih disukai menurut Batasan-batasan kita”*  
Camus (1999: 75)

From the above expression, Camus asserts that the meaning of life is an accumulation of all events that boil down to a conclusion of the event that is or has been experienced, but in essence the so-called choice is the only way and the same as no choice whatsoever in front of the absurdity.

Furthermore Camus also revealed that the meaning of life is a sense that can be experienced by humans in the face of intrinsic problems in life in a way that is not common in life. In this case, the absurd meaning of life refers to the process of meaning in events that have been or are being experienced in life that is more directed to the form of freedom.

#### **1.7.4 Uprising Against Absurdity**

Darma (1984: 72) explains that being a uprising is fun, as long as it doesn't die. What form is rebellious looks for the nearest, what is important in front of the eye needs to be uprising is okay even if it is not important. That is because, rebels are heroes. It is not physical, but uprised against the human being himself. Uprising is needed to change the human condition itself, how humans work to become a better human person.

*“Pemberontakan adalah konfrontasi abadi antara manusia dan kegelapannya sendiri. Pemberontakan hanyalah penegasan atas garis kehidupan yang menggilas, tanpa disertai sikap menyerah.”* (Camus. 1999:67)

From the quote above, Camus sees uprising as a struggle by human against opposition to himself. The struggle at the same time affirms or goes beyond the things that curb his freedom.

The uprising in Albert Camus is a soft uprising, which means that human beings are against their destiny, not an opposition to violence and destroying others. It's begins with humans who understand the meaning of absurdity, humans who do not run away will be absurd and maintain their consciousness. Humans uprising because humans know reality but do not understand them.

Camus also added that, the uprising gave value to life. about what is stretched throughout the entire existence, the eradication of restoring freedom of existentiality, so that man is able to release the reality that curbs it (Camus. 1999:68).

According to Albert Camus (2015: 115) this uprising has two forms of uprising, namely metaphysical and historical uprising. Metaphysical uprising is a uprising carried out by humans to oppose their living conditions and everything. In contrast to historical uprising are uprising that occur because of events in the past. Past incidents of humans who don't understand real life. An explanation of the uprising will be explained in the following points.

#### **1.7.4.1 Metaphysical Uprising**

The definition of metaphysics according to Chirtian Wolf (in Bagus, 1991: 19) is the science of what exists as a whole. What can the human mind perceive is referred to by metaphysics. However, practical logic and theoretical logic that discuss nature is not included in metaphysics.

This metaphysical uprising is a movement of a human being who opposes living conditions and all things (Camus, 2015: 15). A human being will carry out this uprising for protesting against his living conditions.

The way to protest the suffering living conditions is through resistance. Human resistance to suit against human frustration about the world and the universe.

A metaphysical uprising will oppose his own self-created living conditions. Humans will feel dissatisfied with the treatment of others towards them. Humans will feel life suffering with the treatment of others to themselves, as well as the treatment of other people who always ridicule, make jealous, and so on. The treatment of others like that is what makes humans will do it.

In addition, the metaphysical uprising man will oppose his living conditions which have no meaning in life. Humans feel meaningless life because of frustration and hopelessness from unfulfilled expectations. The impact of human life problems will make people suffer and feel frustrated and hopeless. Therefore, humans must confront the meaningless living conditions.

Metaphysical uprising also opposes power at the same time as the existence emphasized by these rebels (Camus, 2015: 17). It will carry out a uprising against power if a rebel takes issue with his situation.

A person who has higher power usually takes arbitrary action against people who are inferior. It is at that point that a person who has low power will manifest the resistance against arbitrary action.

Based on the previous explanation, metaphysical rebellion is human resistance to human living conditions and power. It will be human conflict, there is a condition of his life that suffers and Opposing to living conditions that are meaningless.

#### 1.7.4.2 **Historical Uprising**

The second form is historical uprising. it is a uprising caused by past human events. In the past, humans did not understand the events they experienced, and now humans understand these events.

Every individual human being has a past that he experiences. The past experienced by humans cannot be separated from human relationships with one another. This is because humans as a self-entity cannot be separated from relationships with other humans. In addition, humans are personal identities that have different characteristics and life journeys.

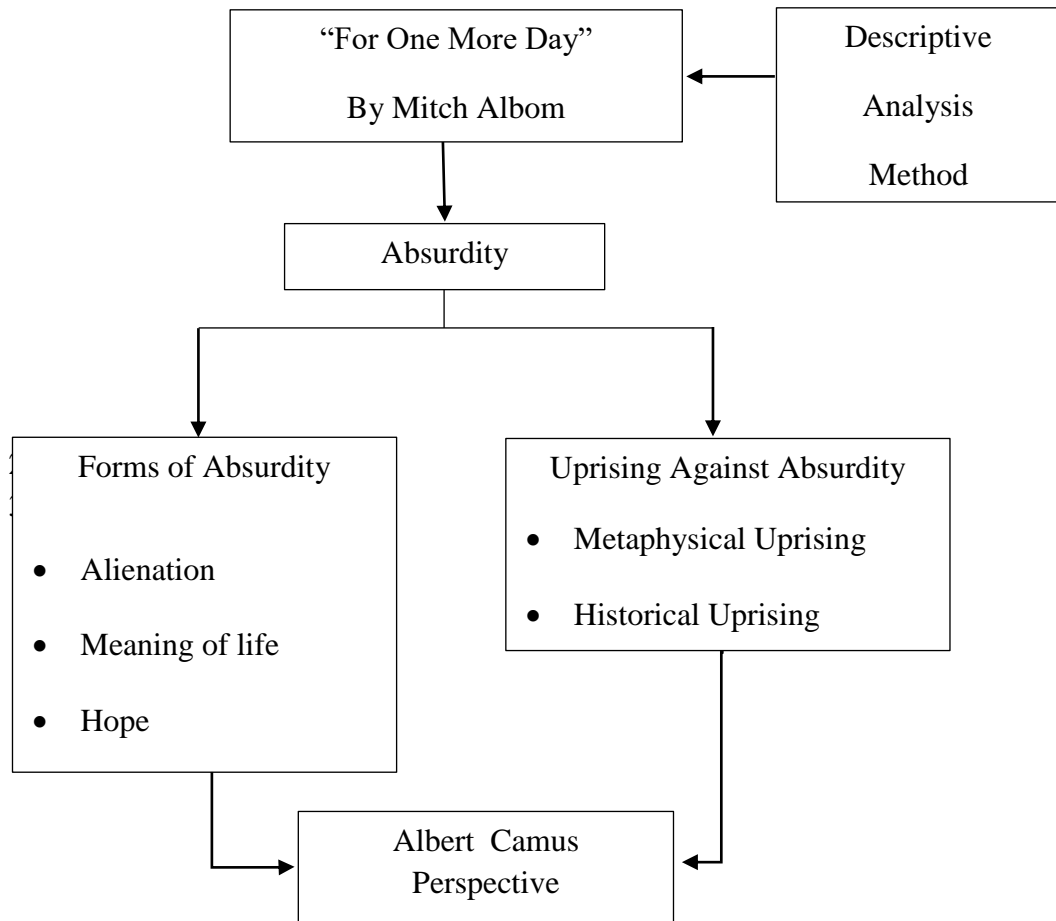
Humans have goes through past, present, and future events. Most of the things in the past were taken as reality. Whereas the past is only a form of memory for events that no longer exist in life. Only the present is the real time. Humans who often see the past as a reality of life are suffering. The past has a broad scope not only translated as dark events experienced by a person, but includes values or norms that limit human freedom itself.

The explanation above is in line with Wattimena (2015: 183) that human suffering arises because of overly remembering the past. Regret and anger that occurred in the past will give rise to suffering. Suffering in question is experienced by humans, causing an action that must be done by humans, namely

uprising. The existence of a desire or an act of uprising helps people to become better individuals than they were before. The bad past will make people think about changing it.

Based on the previous explanation that discusses historical uprising, it can be concluded that historical uprising is carried out by humans to become better human persons. Therefore, humans should not be immersed in the contemplation of their past. The past becomes a living lesson. Life learning to find the truth of life. If humans dissolve in their past, they will make them suffer and feel injustice and lack of freedom. That was the reason for a uprising.

## 1.8. Conceptual Scheme



Based on the conceptual scheme above, this research analyzes the absurdity of life by finding forms of absurdity and uprising against absurdity in the novel "For One More Day" By Mitch Albom. It's used Albert Camus' absurdity concept and descriptive analysis method. Forms of absurdity include forms of alienation, hope and meaning of life, while uprising against absurdity consists of metaphysical uprising and historical uprising.



## **1.9 Method Of The Research**

Methods are a way of understanding reality, systematic steps for analyzing cause and effect. As a tool, the method serves to simplify the problem so that it is easier to analyze and understand the problem. Faruk (2012: 25) says that the method of analysis is a set of methods or research techniques which are an extension of the human mind to look for relationships between data.

### **1.9.1 Descriptive Analysis Method**

According to Suhariyadi (2014: 87) the descriptive analysis method is a method that is carried out by describing the facts which is then followed by analysis. This method does not merely describe but also provides understanding and explanation

It can be concluded that analytical descriptive research is a method that takes problems or focuses on problems as they were when the research was carried out, the results of the research are then analyzed to draw conclusions.

## **1.10 Data Source**

It be uses two types of data sources, there are primary data and secondary data.

### **1.10.1 Primary Data**

The primary data or the main details the novel “For One More Day” by Mich Albom, printed in The United States of America, 2006, 248 pages.

### **1.10.2 Secondary Data**

It was be use the literature method used in literature studies where in the process of collecting data referring to books, articles, materials from lectures and internet media related to the contents in this study.

### **1.11 Data Collection Techniques**

In this study, researchers used data collection techniques by collecting data related to the title. The first technique is the literature technique, it's use written sources and web sources to obtain data. The second technique it is to make some notes related to the title based on the novel " For One More Day ". The last technique it is studying the contents of the novel by reading and separating data related to the title of this research.

### **1.12 Data Analysis Techniques**

In this section, it's use several data analysis techniques, such as reading comprehension, classification, interpretation, and explanation, as follows:

#### **1.12.1 Reading Comprehension**

It was be perused the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom. To analyze it, the researcher will try to understand carefully the contents contained in the novel related to the title of the research.

#### **1.12.2 Classification**

It's need to classify or share content in novels related to problem formulation. The classification is adjusted according to the plot depicting

absurdities in the novel. It is also carried out in dialogue and expressions which are considered closely related to the formulation of the problem.

### **1.12.3 Interpretation**

In this section, it's make interprets the contents of the novel related to the problem formulation. So that interpretation is not, then interpretation still refers to the grammatical and semantic structure of the novel's contents.

### **1.12.4 Explanation**

The data collected were then grouped into several parts, namely, the form of alienation, the form of hope, the form of the meaning of life, metaphysical uprising and historical uprising by referring to the perspective used by the descriptive analysis method.

## **1.13 Systematic of Writing**

Systematics of writing is simply understood as a way of describing scientific work and making it systematic. The systematic writing in this study starts from chapter 1 which contains the background. The background is a brief description of the problem statement and a synopsis of the problem statement. In the sub-problem formulation, the research focuses on two things, namely the problem of forms of absurdity and rebellion to absurdity. The research is limited based on the formulation of the problem above, namely the problem of forms of absurdity and rebellion against absurdity in the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom. The purpose of this research is to find, know and problem forms of absurdity and uprising against absurdity. Theoretically, this research is expected

to provide knowledge, especially to researchers and generally to other readers. Practically this research is expected to help readers in analyzing literary works and understanding the novel "For One More Day", as well as being a reference source for other researchers, especially in the scope of the Faculty of Humanities, Khairun University Ternate.

To support this research, and as a measure to avoid plagiarism, the researchers looked for three previous studies. First, research conducted by Annisa Risma Khairani (2015) Department of English Literature, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of West Sumatra, entitled "The Analysis Of Conflicts In The Novel" For One More Day "By Mitch Albom. Second. research conducted by Pramelia Hapsari (2020), Department of Language and Literature Education, Faculty of Languages and Letters, Jakarta State University. This study aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the absurdity in Amélie Nothomb's novel *Frappe-toi le cœur*. Third,. The last sub is the conceptual framework, namely the schematic (brain storming) analysis of the novel "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom.