EXISTENTIALISM OF JACK
IN DAVID FINCHER’S FIGHT CLUB FILM

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2014
EXISTENTIALISM OF JACK
IN DAVID FINCHER’S *FIGHT CLUB* FILM

A Thesis
Submitted to Faculty of Adab and Humanities
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
The Degree of Strata One in English Letters Department

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ABSTRACT


This research focused on the main character in Fight Club film who searches for his essence. First the writer analyzes the characterization of the main character’s existence to understand the characteristics. Second, the writer analyzes how the main character finds his essence by applying Sartre’s concept of existence precedes essence from theory of existentialism.

This research finds that the main character’s existence is described as a depressive, consumptive and weak person. The main character chooses every action as individual person to define his essence. The writer concludes that the main character successfully could define his essence by his actions and it represents Sartre’s existence precedes essence concept.
APPROVEMENT

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A Thesis
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The Degree of Strata One (S1)

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2014
LEGALIZATION

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Adab and Humanities Faculty Examination Committee on 30th December 2014. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, December 30th 2014

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, December 30th, 2014

Aripin
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human beings have existed for hundreds of thousands years, since its existence, human cannot be separated from the awareness of existence. What does it mean to be a human being and what is the purpose of its existence? These are the common questions to human being in general.

Danish philosopher who concerned about existence, Søren Kierkegaard reserved the term existence\(^1\) for the individual human being. He said, to exist means to be the certain kind of individual, an individual who struggles, who consider alternatives, who chooses, who decides, and the most important, who makes commitment.\(^2\) For Kierkegaard, to think about the terms of existence is to realize that we face individual choices, our thinking must deal with our own individual situations and the important decisions that we always made.\(^3\) As Kierkegaard stated:

“What I really need is to get clear about what I must do, not what I must know, except insofar as knowledge must precede every act. What matters is to find a purpose, to see what it really is that God wills that I shall do; the crucial thing is to find a truth which is truth for me, to find the idea for which I am willing to live and die.”\(^4\)


\(^{3}\) Ibid., p.358.

The philosophical theory of existence defined as *Existentialism*, as the theory that is important to understand human existence and ruled by the norm of authenticity. Although as the nineteenth century philosophers, Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche were known as the pioneers of the movement, the term *Existentialism* was stated by Jean-Paul Sartre as a self-description and spread through the post war literary and philosophical works of Sartre and his associates remarkably Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Albert Camus.\(^5\)

Sartre states the idea that "What all existentialists have in common is the fundamental doctrine that existence precedes essence". His ideas were better known through his fictional works such as *Nausea* and *No Exit* than through his more purely philosophical ones such as *Being and Nothingness* and *Critique of Dialectical Reason*.\(^6\) Also his public lecture in 1946 entitled *Existentialism is A Humanism* as a basic structure of understanding existentialism. Existentialism became a literary phenomenon than a philosophical one, and identified with cultural movement that developed in Europe in the 1940s and 1950s.\(^7\)

Existentialism is a philosophical theory or approach that emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a free and responsible agent determining their own development through acts of the will.\(^8\) Existentialism tends to be atheistic (although there is a strand of Christian existentialism deriving from the

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\(^7\) Ibid., p.37.

work of Kierkegaard), to disparage scientific knowledge, and to deny the existence of objective values, stressing instead the reality and significance of human freedom and experience.9

Existentialism is a sign of disapproval against academic philosophy, the anti-system sensibility and detachment from rationalism. Existentialists disagree with definitions of human beings as mainly rational, and therefore, against rationalism. Existentialism argues that people in fact, make decisions based on subjective meaning rather than pure rationality.10 Existentialism claims that thinking about human existence requires new categories which not found in the previous concept of ancient or modern thought, because human beings cannot be understood as substances with fixed properties, or as subjects only interacting with a world of objects.11

Existentialism therefore, emphasizes the subjective realities of individual existence, individual freedom, and individual choice. A man exist means he has an individual reality, individual freedom for every individual man is possible of potency.12 He makes his own personality by his own independent choice for which he is personally responsible, not choosing also is a form of choice.13 In existentialism, the focus on freedom is related to the limits of the responsibility that an individual accepts as a result of its freedom: the relationship between freedom and responsibility is one of interdependency, and a clarification of

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9 Ibid.
13 Ibid., p.147.
freedom also clarifies that for which one is responsible. The principal of existentialism is the idea that philosophy cannot be practiced in the way of objective science, and it is equally true that all the themes such as dread, boredom, alienation, the absurd, freedom, commitment, and nothingness commonly related with existentialism. Following years after the World War II, existentialism became popular and influenced many other disciplines besides philosophy, such as theology, drama, art, literature and psychology.

Many aspects of existentialism also can be found in films, existentialism themes in films represent through the characters and its situations. The characters were often experiencing the feeling of existential crisis or feeling that living without any purpose and meaning. From the feeling of searching what is the meaning of life and begin to find out how to live authentic, the existentialism seeds have risen.

There are many films containing existentialism theme. First, Clockwork Orange (1971), the main character was Alex, he committed crimes, took action through free will and individual decisions against the government. Second, Taxi Driver (1978), the main character was Travis Bickle who took action against society to fulfill his individual freedom. Third, American Beauty (1999) whom the main character was Lester Burnham, he was experiencing the existential crisis and searching the meaning of his life.

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15 Ibid.
Another film contains existential theme which the writer chooses to analyze in this research is *Fight Club* (1999), an American film directed by David Fincher and based on the 1996 novel written by Chuck Palahniuk. Many people think that *Fight Club* is only about an underground club of men who fight each other and full of violence. Actually the Fight Club itself is a metaphor, it is the way to express themselves from suffering against the existential crisis and also as a psychoteraphy.

*Fight Club* film portrayed the main character, the nameless narrator (but in the script known as Jack). Jack is an automobile company employee who traveled by plane to analyze the car accidents, he traveled from one place to another. His travels put him on a jet lag and made him suffer from insomnia. He had no social life, no friends and no family. Like most of the working class men, he became the slave of consumerism and victim of capitalism, he started to realize that material possession could not define him as a person.

Jack went to doctor to consult his insomnia and the doctor suggested him to visit a support group. He found the cure for his insomnia by attending the support group for men with testicular cancer. Although he did not actually have the disease, he found emotional release and be able to sleep for the first time. Jack met Tyler Durden on the flight from business trip. After met Tyler, Jack’s perspective to see everything has changed because Tyler told Jack about consumerism world they lived in. Tyler told about how to live with essence, how to live free and not to follow what the consumer society told them.
Jack and Tyler began to organize Fight Club to express their feeling and emotion through the fight, because they suffered from living under control, from existential crisis under consumerism. Like Tyler said that fighting is the only way for men to prove that they are real and alive. Fight Club began to expand as Project Mayhem purposed to destroy capitalism corporation, so everyone will not be a consumerism slave anymore. Tyler called it as “Hitting the Bottom”, so everyone who were the victim will set to be free as the credit card companies building they planned to bomb torn down. And the result is Ground Zero, which is to erase debt records so they can escape from materialism.

Based on what is represented in the movie, Jack as the main character in Fight Club rejects modern social lifestyle and he chooses to define value for himself. Jack chooses every action as an individual person, as a free and responsible agent determining his own development through his acts of will, like Jean Paul Sartre said that “Man makes himself”. The writer is interested to analyze how Jack as the main character in Fight Club defines his essence through Jean Paul Sartre’s existentialism concept.

B. **Focus of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, this research is focused on Jack as the main character in Fight Club defines his essence through Jean Paul Sartre’s existentialism concept.

C. **Research Question**

According to the background and the focus of the study, the questions in this research are:
1. How is Jack’s existence as the main character portrayed in *Fight Club*?

2. How does Jack as the main character define his essence through Jean Paul Sartre’s existentialism concept?

D. Significances of the Research

The writer hopes that this research would be useful for the readers who are interested in films, which is especially containing existentialism concept. The result of the research hopefully would be useful also for learning English Literature.

E. Objective of the Research

1. To know how Jack’s existence portrayed in *Fight Club*.

2. To analyze how Jack defines his essence through Jean Paul Sartre’s existentialism concept.

F. Research Methodology

1. The Method

The method of this research is descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method gives attention to natural data analysis within the relation of the presence context.\(^{17}\) In this research, the writer will describe the collected data; data has collected by watching the film, reading the script and browsing the Internet.

2. Data Analysis

In this research, the writer uses descriptive analytical technique, which is describing the facts and then followed by analysis. The writer watches the film for several times and analyze the content of the movie that related to existentialism.

3. Research Instrument

The instrument of the research is the writer himself. The writer as the subject of the research is watching *Fight Club*. Then analyze it by using existentialism concept by Jean Paul Sartre.

4. Unit of Analysis

The unit analysis in this research is *Fight Club* film on digital copy format. It is based on the novel with same title written by Chuck Palahniuk in 1996. The movie directed by David Fincher, released in United States on October 15\(^{th}\), 1999 and distributed by 20\(^{th}\) Century Fox.

\(^{18}\text{Ibid., p.53.}\)
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Character and Characterization

1. Character

In a film, character is an important element that will develop the story. Character is a person who carries out the events of film and then those events become a story. A character then, is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story—although that simple definition may admit to a few exceptions. Character is any person, persona, identify or entity that exists in a work of art. Along with plot, setting, theme and style, character is considered one of the fundamental components of fiction.19

2. Characterization

Characterization is the use of literary techniques to reveal the nature of a character. Characterization broadly refers to description and development of characters. Arguably, most fiction is characterization in a broader sense; one could say that plots and settings, for instance, generally work to develop character. Characterization can involve developing a variety of aspects of a character such as appearance, dialogue, external action, internal action or reactions of other characters.20

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a. Characterization Through Appearance

Most of films actors project certain qualities of character the minute they appear on the screen, characterization in film has great deal to do with casting a major aspect of film characterization is revealed visually and instantaneously. The minute we see the most actor on the screen, we make certain assumptions about them because their facial features, dress, physical build, and mannerisms and the way they move. Our first visual impression may be proven erroneous as the story progresses, but it is certainly an important means of establishing character.


Characterization can be depicted through the dialogue. Dialogue can reveal the moods and personalities of the characters. Characters in a fictional film naturally reveal a great deal about themselves by what they say, but a great deal is also revealed by how they say it. Actors’ use of grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and particular dialects reveals a great deal about their character’s social and economic level, educational background and mental processes.

c. Characterization Through External Action

The external action is the characters actions which grow naturally out of the character’s personality in the film. There should be a clear relationship between a character and his or her actions; if the motivation for character’s action is clearly established, the character and the plot become so closely interwoven that they are impossible to separate. In other words, every single action that the character takes

\[\text{\textsuperscript{21} Ibid.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{22} Ibid.}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{23} Ibid., p.52.}\]
in some way reflects the quality of his particular personality. Although appearance is an important measure of a character’s personality, appearances are often misleading. Perhaps the best reflections of character are a person’s actions. Some actions are more important in revealing character than others.\(^\text{24}\)

d. Characterization Through Internal Action

Internal action is character’s minds and emotions that consist of secrets, unspoken thoughts, daydreams, aspirations, memories, fears, and fantasies. Indeed, the most obvious way in which the filmmaker reveals inner reality is by taking the viewer visually into the character’s mind so that we see or hear the things that the character imagines, remembers, or thinks about. People hopes, dreams, and aspirations can be as important to an understanding of their character as any real achievement, and their fears and insecurities can be more terrible to them any real catastrophic failure.\(^\text{25}\)

e. Characterization Through Reaction of Other Characters

The way other characters view a person often serves as an excellent means of characterization. In this case, the other character, to mention it as the character beyond the main character, have a significant role to define especially the main character’s personality through their dialogue and the way they response especially the main character. Sometime, a great deal of information about a character is already provided through such means before the character first appears on the screen.\(^\text{26}\)

\(^{24}\) Ibid. p.53.
\(^{25}\) Ibid.
\(^{26}\) Ibid.
f. Characterization Through Contrast: Dramatic Foils

One of the most effective techniques of characterization is the use of foils contrasting characters whose behaviors, attitudes, opinions, lifestyle, physical appearance, and so on are the opposite of those the main characters. That means the other characters which have contrast characteristics with the main character may reveal the main character’s personality because in a certain way they bold up the line of the difference between them, meanwhile at the same time the main character bold up his or her character in the other side.27

g. Characterization Through Caricature and Leitmotif

Caricature is the way of actors to exaggerate or to distort one or more dominant features or personality traits such as, voice qualities and accents. Likewise, leitmotif is the repetition of single action, phrase, or idea by certain character until it becomes almost a trademark for that character. In brief, both of those devices applied to etch a character quickly and deeply on viewer minds and memories.28

h. Characterization Through Choice of Name

Another important method of characterization which may help reveal the character personality is name typing. This method concern on the use of names possessing appropriate qualities of sound, meaning, or connotation.29

27 Ibid., p.54.
28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.
B. Existentialism of Jean Paul Sartre.

Jean-Paul Sartre was born in Paris, France, on June 21, 1905 and died on 15 April 1980. He was a pioneer existentialist post World War II, he supports the radical freedom and personal responsibility of the individual, also emphasizes the freedom of human consciousness. Sartre said that if an individual tries to be someone else or something, he becomes inauthentic and acting in *bad faith*. To try to make something of ourselves, as a purpose of life is a mistake, the attempt would only tend to objectify what we are. Nobody wants to be considered as an object. Sartre emphasizes that every individual is the author of his choices; all significant aspects of choices are not limited by outside influences.\footnote{Sartre, Jean Paul, “Man Makes Himself”, Reading For Philosophical Inquiry: A Brief Introduction, p.1. http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/articles/sartre-a.pdf}

Sartre wrote several literary works, such as a collection of short stories. Sartre’s novel *Nausea* is the most popular one, which was first published in 1938. In each works he wrote, Sartre always put ideas of existentialism. His philosophical theories also can be found in the works of his non-fiction. Two of them are his essays, "Existentialism is a Humanism," which was published in 1946, and his book, *Being and Nothingness*, published three years earlier. In accordance with Sartre’s view of authenticity, while declining the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1964, Sartre replied, “A writer must refuse to allow himself to be transformed into an institution.”\footnote{Ibid.}
1. Existence Precedes Essence

Sartre became identified with existentialism because he conveyed its idea through his novels and short stories. His main contribution to existentialism set out clearly in his book *Being and Nothingness*, but his views were best known from his public lecture *Existentialism is a Humanism*, published in 1946. In this brief lecture Sartre introduces his classic formula of the fundamental principle of existentialism that *existence precedes essence*. Sartre divides existentialism into two kinds, Christian’s existentialists and atheists existentialists. Karl Jaspers and Gabriel Marcel are the Christian type, in atheists type there are French existentialists, which is Heidegger and Sartre himself. What they have in common is simply the fact that they believe that existence comes before essence.

According to Sartre, we cannot explain human nature in the same way like we explain inanimate objects. If we consider an inanimate object, for example, a paper-knife, we see that it has been made by the maker who had a conception of it and he has paid attention to the conception of a paper-knife and the way of how the knife was made is a part of that conception and formula. The paper-knife at the same time is an object of production and on the other hand, it has a definite purpose, the maker would not create a paper-knife without knowing what it was for.

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“Let us say, then, of the paperknife that its essence—that is to say the sum of the formulae and the qualities which made its production and its definition possible—precedes its existence”.  \(^{35}\)

Before the knife is made, the knife maker has already imagined it to have a definite purpose and as being the product of the definite process. By the essence of the knife, the process of which it was made and the purposes for which it was created, we can say that the knife’s essence precedes its existence.

Sartre said when we think about human nature, we tend to explain ourselves also as the product of the maker, of a creator, of God. When we think of God as the creator, we are thinking of him, most of the time, as a supernal artisan. The conception of man in the mind of God is similar to the paper-knife in the mind of the maker, God makes man according to a procedure and a conception, exactly as the knife maker produces a paper-knife, following a definition and a formula. Thus each individual man is the realisation of a certain conception which dwells in the divine understanding.  \(^{36}\)

Sartre believed that if there is no god, then there is no given human nature exactly because there is no god to have a conception of it. Human nature cannot be defined in advance because it has not been thought in advance. Human simply exist and only later we become our essential selves.  \(^{37}\) What Sartre mean by saying that existence precedes essence is:

“Man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world and defines himself afterwards. If man as the existentialist sees him is not definable, it is because to begin with he is nothing. He will not be anything until later, and then he will be what he makes of himself.”  \(^{38}\)

\(^{36}\) Ibid. Par.8.
\(^{38}\) Jean-Paul Sartre. (1946), loc.cit.
Thus, there is no human nature because there is no God to have the conception. Sartre’s point here is that a person has a greater dignity than a stone or a table. The most important outcome of existence before essence in human nature is not only that we create ourselves, but also that responsibility for existence lies directly upon each individual person. A stone cannot be responsible. And if human nature was already given, we could not be responsible for what we are.\(^{39}\)

Sartre says when we choose in the process of making ourselves we choose not only for ourselves but also for all people. Therefore we are responsible not only for our own individuality but also responsible for all people. Before we choose a way of our action, we certainly imagine what would happen if the others act the same to us, it means that a general human essence that makes our kind of action relevant to all people. Sartre says that even though we create our own values and create ourselves, we also create at the same time an image of our human nature, as we believe it ought to be. When we choose our way of act, we assert the value of what we have chosen, and nothing can be better for any one of us unless it is better for all.\(^{40}\)

Regarding with human consciousness, Sartre distinguishes between reflective consciousness and pre-reflective consciousness. Pre-reflective consciousness is consciousness that directly focused on the object that is realized. This means that in the pre-reflective consciousness, our attention focused on the object (object in real life or object in our thought), without trying to reflect on our own. For example, when we read, our consciousness is not focused on our actions


\(^{40}\) *Ibid.*
that were reading, but on the material (letters, words, paper) we were reading. Therefore, Sartre called the pre-reflective consciousness as "unrealized awareness" (non-conscious consciousness). The reflective consciousness is consciousness that makes the pre-reflective consciousness into thematic, in other words: the awareness that makes consciousness—which is not recognized to be "conscious awareness". In reflective consciousness, consciousness is no longer focused on the material we were reading, but on our actions when we read (unrealized consciousness).

In the pre-reflective consciousness, the subject is not a subject that directs consciousness on its actions, but rather on object that is being done. Pre-reflective consciousness also sustains reflective consciousness. Reflective consciousness is reached on the directionality of our awareness of our own actions, related with the object (our pre-reflective consciousness). Thus, it is impossible there is unconscious, as proposed by Freud with psychoanalysis. An unconscious consciousness is an unacceptable paradox of common sense.

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42 Ibid.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDING

In this chapter, the writer will analyze existentialism, which is portrayed in *Fight Club* (1999) film through Jack as the main character based on Jean Paul Sartre existentialism concept. First, the writer watched the film repeatedly and focused on the main character in detail, then analyze Jack’s existence as the main character through the appearance, dialogues, scenes and acts by using character and characterization theory. Last, the writer will analyze Jack as the main character defines his essence through the existentialism concept by Jean Paul Sartre.

A. Characters Analysis

The main character in *Fight Club* is Jack. Jack is an ordinary employee of major automobile company. He suffers from insomnia because of his job that obligates him to travel by plane to analyze the car accident over the country, it leads him to experience jet lag and end up in insomnia. He is depressed because of his job and emptiness in his life. He buys furniture purposes to fill the emptiness in his life, but it still does not change his life, it just makes him to be the victim of consumerism. He attends the support group to cure his insomnia as the doctor suggests him, but he only pretends that he is dying and crying all the time with weak people in every meeting. The group makes him weak, and it does not solve his problems in his life.

Because of all Jack’s problems that he cannot handle by himself, he creates an alter ego to help him. The alter ego is Tyler Durden, Tyler is the result from
Jack’s inability to change his life. With the help of Tyler to eliminate all of his problem, Jack ables to handle the problem of his depression, consumerism and weakness, and finally he can change his life and define his essence.

There are 8 different techniques that usually used to analyze character, using all of these techniques; the writer wants to describe Jack. Based on the theory of characterization by Joseph M. Boggs and Dennies W. Petrie the writer will analyze how Jack’s existence as the main character portrayed in the film through character and characterization theory.

1. Depressive Person

Jack is a depressive person; he is portrayed as a common white-collar office worker, with short haircut and average male body, his face and his pale eyes both look so tired caused by insomnia. Jack is a picture of everyman, he is normal and ordinary, represents everyone who lives in the modern society, working the job he hates and often get pressure from the typical authoritarian boss but could not do anything because he needs the money and the job to support his living.

**Picture 1 (04:14)**

**Boss**

: I need you out of town this week to cover some red flags.

**Jack**

: You want me to deprioritize my reports until you advise of a status upgrade?

**Boss**

: Prioritize this. Here’s your flight coupon. Call me if there’s any snags.

(04:15-04:33)
The picture above is the evidence that Jack looks so tired about his daily routine, working his job in the office and with his fingers on his head makes him looks so depressed. And the dialogue shows that the boss told him to flight out of town to analyze the car accident although he has not finished his report. His boss seems more prioritize about the car accident and the status upgrade of the company than the report that has not finished yet. Too many jobs that Jack must do even when the previous job has not finished yet, especially the job that requires him to be in a flight, it makes him being depressed.

The statement below shows that because of insomnia Jack could not sleep for months, everything becomes unreal for him and everything becomes far away and feels just like a copy of a copy. Plus his life surrounded by the world of corporations that make him becomes consumptive. He compared things like computer manufacturer and coffee brand as the solar system. His insomnia and the world full of corporations are the trigger that makes him become depressed.

*Jack as Narrator*: “For six months, I could not sleep. With insomnia, nothing is real. Everything is far away. Everything is a copy of a copy of a copy. When deep space exploration ramps up, it will be corporations that name everything. *The IBM Stellar Sphere. The Microsoft Galaxy. Planet Starbucks.*”

(03:44-04:13)

Next evidence in the following statement shows Jack is so depressive. Instead of hope that the flight is safety, he prays for the plane to crash when he is on a flight to do his job and he thinks that life insurance will pay triple as if that his life is worthless. He thinks that his life is so empty and has no meaning; he thinks that he has no reason to live anymore because he wishes to die.
**Jack as Narrator**: Every time the plane banked too sharply on take-off or landing, I prayed for a crash, or a mid-air collision anything. Life insurance pays off triple if you die on a business trip.

(20:40-21:00)

Another statement below shows Jack is depressed and he tries to eliminate his depression. When he comes home from work everyday, he is angry and he is depressed, it is because of his job. He just cleans his condominium and takes care of his furniture by polishes it, he wishes it can eliminate his depression, but nothing seems to change.

**Jack as Narrator**: It used to be that when I came home angry and depressed. I'd just clean my condo. Polish my Scandinavian furniture.

(39:11-39:25)

Jack becomes a depressed lonely man. He lives alone in his apartment, isolated from society and also never had interaction with people. He disconnects himself from society, the activity he does only work, he goes to work then goes home and so on, he has no friends nor lover, no family either appears during the movie. He is lonely because only people he meets during the flight that he considers as friends, between take off and landing he had time to talk with people as social interaction. And his loneliness is the sign of his depression.

**Jack as Narrator**: The people I meet on each flight they're single-serving friends. Between take-off and landing, we have our time together, but that's all we get.

(19:20-19:27)

2. **Consumptive Person**

Jack is a consumptive person like most people on the modern society. He buys every property and furniture to cure his emptiness in his life. He lives in consumerism culture where the advertising told him what to buy, and then he
becomes the victim of capitalism in modern world. He fills his apartment with property and become the slave of consumerism because he buys everything he sees in catalogues of magazines. He buys coffee table, sofa, lamps and everything even though he does not really need. Even so, he realizes that material things cannot define him as a person.

*Jack as Narrator*: Like so many others, I had become a slave to IKEA nesting instinct.

*Jack*: Yes. I’d like to order the Erika Pekkari dust ruffles.

*Woman*: Please hold.

*Jack as Narrator*: If I saw something clever, like a little coffee table in the shape of a yin yang, I had to have it. The Klipsk personal office unit. The Hovetrekke home Exerbike. Or the Ohamshab sofa with the strinna green stripe pattern. Even the Ryslampa wire lamps of environmentally friendly unbleached paper. I’d flip through catalogues and wonder “what kind of dining set defines me as a person?”

(04:35-05:10)

When Jack and his alter ego Tyler had some conversation at the local bar, Tyler taught him about consumerism of the modern world and the society lifestyle that Jack became the victim of, the way of his life. Jack admits when Tyler told him that Jack is a consumptive person who obsessed with material possessions and since Tyler is Jack alter ego, it means Jack taught himself and realizes that his life and his living as consumer has nothing to do with survival of human and has no essence.

*Tyler*: Do you know what a duvet it?

*Jack*: Comforter.

*Tyler*: It’s a blanket, just a blanket. Now why guys like you and I know what a duvet is? Is this essential to our survival? In the hunter-gathered sense of the word? No. What are we then?

*Jack*: You know, consumers.

*Tyler*: Right. We’re consumers. We’re by-products of a
lifestyle obsession. Murder, crime, poverty, these things don't concern me. What concerns me is celebrity magazines, television with five hundred channels, some guy's name on my underwear. Rogaine, Viagra, Olestra.

(28:00-30:05)

3. Weak Person

Jack is a weak person. He attends the support group for people who are dying and he pretends that he is also dying to cure his insomnia, because when he takes the meditation, it makes him relax and he will be able to sleep later. When the support group leader told him to imagine his power animal, he imagines a penguin instead of other strong animal such as lion, wolf or anything. He imagines himself as a penguin because it represents his weakness. Since the penguin cannot fly, it is like Jack who cannot “fly” or escape from his depressing life.

Leader : Now we're going to open the green door - the heart chakra...

Jack as narrator : I wasn't really dying. I wasn't host to cancer or parasites; I was the warm little center that the life of this world crowded around.

Leader : Imagine your pain as a white ball of healing light. It moves over your body healing you. Now keep this going, remember to breathe...and step forward through the back door of the room. Where does it lead? To your cave... Step forward into your cave. That's right. You're going deeper into your cave. And you're going to find, your power animal...

Penguin : Slide.

(09:44-10:34)

Next, when Jack attends another group, the group of testicular cancer, which is for men only, everyone must pair one on one and Jack’s partner is Bob, and whilst everyone in pair Bob tells Jack to cry, then Jack cries on Bob’s chest. Continuously Jack always cry and cry harder in every meeting, this group makes
Jack becomes a weak person, he pretends to make people think that he is dying because of testicular cancer, he cries to make him cure his insomnia. He said that losing hope was freedom; it means that he becomes a pessimistic and gives up as a weak person. In the stereotype of men, it is considered as weakness when the men are crying. Because the image of the men identical with strength and power, while crying is identical with women and considered as feminine, so crying is a weakness for Jack because the stereotype of men should not crying.

Bob : Go ahead, Cornelius. You can cry.

Jack as Narrator : And then something happened. I let go. Lost in oblivion dark and silent and complete. I found freedom. Losing all hope was freedom.

Bob : That's good...

(Jack pulls away from Bob. On Bob's chest there's a wet mask of Jack's face from how he looks weeping.)

Bob : It's ok.

Jack as Narrator : If I didn't say anything, people always assumed the worst. They cried harder. I cried harder.

(08:15-09:35)

Another evidence that shows Jack as a weak person is when Jack fights the black man as his opponent in Fight Club; he gets beaten until his blood spills out of his face. Jack asks to stop, the black man keeps hitting his head against the floor, he loses the fight and surrender even the fight is not over. The black man asks to fight again next week but Jack wants to fight next month, he postponed the fighting time because he is a weak person that needs to take long time to recover from injury and bruises he had from fighting. Once again Jack does not represent the stereotype of men, the image of strength and power, instead he represents weakness and does not show his masculinity because he loses the fight.

Opponent : Is that it?
Jack : Stop! Stop!
Tyler : Hey, cool.
Opponent : Hey, how about next week?
Jack : How about next month?
Opponent : I hear you.

B. Existence Precedes Essence of the Main Character

In this sub chapter the writer will analyze existentialism in the main character using Jean Paul Sartre’s existentialism concept to know how Jack defines his essence. Jack realizes about his existence and knows that his life has no value or meaning then he tries to make value of himself and find what his essence of life, then Jack finds his essence through the actions he makes as an individual person.

As the writer has explained in the previous sub chapter, the characterization of Jack and his existence, which is first he is a depressive person, he feels that his life has no meaning but he does not know how to change it, he is depressed because of his job, and he suffers from insomnia also surrounded by corporation world. He is so desperate that he wishes the plane is crashed so he can die. Second, he is consumptive person, he buys furniture with purpose to fill the emptiness in his life, he fills his condominium with furniture and everything yet it still does not change his life, and it just makes him to be the victim of consumerism in the world under capitalism. Third, Jack is weak person because he attends the support group so he can pretend to be dying in order to get attention and to make people care about him, he also lose in fight and the power animal he choose is penguin which represents his weakness.

All of these problems become the reason to Jack to make a change in his life and find how to give meaning and value to his life, so his life will be authentic.
and have essence. Jack does not know how to change his life, with Tyler Durden as his alter ego that he created, he finally be able to escape from the reality that he cannot handle all this time. His depression, consumerism and weakness manifested as Tyler Durden. Every action that Jack chooses with Tyler Durden as his alter ego, who helped him, later will make a great change to Jack’s life and defines his essence as an existentialist. Although Tyler Durden helped him to defined his essence but still Jack whom responsible for his action because Tyler is just another personality of Jack.

According to Sartre, the consciousness that directly focused on the object that is realized is called pre-reflective consciousness, because the attention is focused on the object. Sartre stated “All that there is of my intention in my actual consciousness is directed toward the outside, toward the world…every positional (reflective) consciousness of an object is at the same time a non-positional (pre-reflective) consciousness of itself.” This means that Tyler Durden is the object of pre-reflective consciousness of Jack. Jack is focused on Tyler as the object without realized that he is doing his actions. Even so, Jack has to be responsible for his actions.

The first action to define his essence is that Jack creates Tyler Durden as the alter ego to help him because he cannot find the way to change his life. He also cannot handle the problems and situation of the world he is living by himself. Tyler is the manifestation of Jack’s insomnia and frustration mind that trapped in the world of property slavery and consumerism. Tyler is Jack’s chaotic mind.

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Create Tyler means freedom to Jack, because being Tyler helps him and he successfully finds his essence, Jack’s life would not change without creates Tyler as his action.

Create Tyler means freedom to Jack, because being Tyler helps him and he successfully finds his essence, Jack’s life would not change without creates Tyler as his action.

**Tyler**: Say it!

**Jack**: Because we're the same person.

**Tyler**: That’s right.

**Jack**: I don't understand this...

**Tyler**: You were looking for a way to change your life. You could not do this on your own. All the ways you wished you could be...that's me! I look like you wanna look, I fuck like you wanna fuck, I'm smart, capable and most importantly, I'm free in all the ways that you are not.

**Jack**: No...This is impossible. This is crazy.

**Tyler**: People do it every day. They talk to themselves. They see themselves as they like to be. They don't have the courage you have, to just run with it. Naturally you still wrestling with it...Sometimes you're still you...Other times you imagine yourself watching me. Little by little. You're just letting yourself become...Tyler Durden!

(1:47:42-1:49:32)

At first Jack seems confused when Tyler tells him that they are the same person. Tyler explains about how Jack creates him as the alter ego because Jack is looking for a way to change his life, he could not do by his own. Jack wishes that he could be Tyler, he wants to look like Tyler, having sex like Tyler and he wants to be smart and free in all the way like Tyler. Tyler says that everyday people talk to themselves because they want to see like what they like to be. Jack struggles with this situation, sometimes he is still being himself, and other times he imagines himself watching Tyler, as time goes by he just letting himself become Tyler.

**Jack**: But you have a house--

**Tyler**: Rented in your name.

**Jack**: You have jobs, you have a whole life--

**Tyler**: You have night jobs, because you can't sleep -- or stay
Jack: Marla...You're fucking Marla, Tyler.
Tyler: Uhm...technically you're fucking Marla, but it's all the same to her.
Jack: Oh, my God!
Tyler: Now you see our dilemma. She knows too much. We have to talk about how this might compromise our goals.
Jack: Wh--What are you saying? This is-- this is bullshit! This is bullshit, I'm not listening to this. You are insane.
Tyler: No, you're insane, and we definitely do not have time for this crap!

Tyler helps Jack to find his freedom, when Jack suffers insomnia and cannot sleep actually he becomes Tyler and does the night jobs; he becomes a projectionist, a waiter or stay up all night to make soap. With Tyler as another personality, Jack has changed his life, he becomes a hero for himself, he lives in abandoned house to escape from modern slavery and consumerism, he forms Fight Club and becomes a brave person, he has courage to having sex with Marla which he even never think of before, also being a leader for Fight Club and Project Mayhem as a role model for the member.

When Jack thinks that he moved into the abandoned house that belongs to Tyler, actually the house that located at Paper Street was rented by his name. When Jack has been seeing Tyler having sex with Marla, it is also technically that he is the one who has been sleeping with her. Every time Jack sees Tyler, he is seeing what he could not do, but in reality he is doing it by himself. Therefore created Tyler is Jack’s individual action to define his essence.

The next action that Jack chooses to find his essence is he blows up his condominium. Because he cannot stand with his life anymore and he has enough
to reach the climax of his problems.

*Jack as Narrator*: Home was a condo on the fifteenth floor of a filing cabinet for widows and young professionals. The walls were solid concrete. A foot of concrete is important when your next-door neighbor lets her hearing aid go and has to watch game shows at full volume. Or when a volcanic blast of debris that used to be your furniture and personal effects blows out your floor-to-ceiling windows and sails flaming into the night.

*Doorman*: There's nothing up there. You can't go into the unit. Police orders. Do you have somebody to call?

*Jack as Narrator*: How embarrassing. A house full of condiments and no food. The police would later tell me that the pilot light might have gone out...letting out just a little bit of gas. The gas could have slowly filled the condo. Seventeen hundred square feet with high ceilings, for days and days. Then the refrigerator's compressor could've clicked on.

![image]

The condominium is the place where he lives, the place where he spends most of his time to arrange his furniture, to collect the things he thinks he should buy. He describes it as it the most precious thing, the wall and the floor that made from material makes him thinking that it is the place where is secure the most, when the neighbor of the condominium makes the noisy sound, it will not bother him because the wall is build from solid material. It is everything for him because he loves it, the only place he has, even though he says there is no food in it but of course his feeling describes he is losing it. He is really depend on his condominium rather than having personal experience in reality because he is just too busy to arrange his condominium.

Later, the movie shows that Jack has blown the condominium as an individual choice of action to escape himself from material possessions to find what is his essence.
Jack: Hello.
Detective: This is detective stern with the arson unit. We have some new information about the incident at your former condo.
Jack: Yes.
Detective: I don’t know if you’re aware, but someone sprayed Freon into your front-door lock. They used a chisel to shatter the cylinder.
Jack: No, I wasn’t aware of that.
Detective: Does it sound strange to you?
Jack: Yes sir, strange very strange.
Detective: The dynamite left a residue of ammonium oxalate potassium per chloride. Do you know what this means?
Jack: No what does it means?
Detective: It means it was home made.
Jack: I’m sorry. This is just coming as quite a shock to me, sir.
Detective: Whoever set this dynamite could have blown out your pilot light days before the explosion. The gas was just a detonator.
Jack: Who would go and do that?
Detective: I’ll ask the question.

The dialogue above shows the conversation via telephone between detective and Jack with Tyler. The detective gives Jack the information about how the condominium has blown up, he says that someone spray Freon into the front door lock and left a home made dynamite, but the explosion actually caused by the gas as the detonator. Because the dynamite was home made and all the possibilities of explosion might be done by someone who known the condominium and the gas set up the days before the explosion, the detective asked if Jack has enemies or not, the fact that Jack has no enemies made the detective presumed that Jack has blown his condominium by himself and detective told him to stay in town to investigate him later.

Tyler: Tell him. Tell him the liberator who destroyed my property realigned my perceptions.
Detective: Excuse me. Are you there?
Jack: I am listening. It’s hard to know what to make this.
Detective: Have you recently made enemies who might have access to home made dynamite?

Jack: Enemies?

Tyler: Reject civilization, especially material possessions.
Detective: Son, this is serious.
Jack: Yes, I know this is serious.
Detective: I mean that.
Jack: Yes it’s very serious. Look nobody takes this more seriously more than me. That condo was my life, Ok? I loved ever stick of furniture in that place. That was not just a bunch of stuff that got destroyed. It was me.

Detective: Is this not a good time for you?

Tyler: Just tell him you fucking did it! Tell him you blew it all up! That’s what he wants to hear.

Detective: Are you still there?

Jack: Wait. Are you saying that I’m a suspect?

Detective: No. I may need to talk to you, so you let me know if you’re gonna leave town. Ok?

Jack: Ok.

(53:39–55:27)

Tyler saying in the dialogue is the main reason why Jack blew his condominium, Tyler says that Jack did it because he wants to reject civilization especially material possession and he destroyed property to change his way of thought. Tyler as Jack’s alter ego keep forcing Jack to admit and tell the detective that he is the one who blew it. Jack did this because he wanted to escape, he does not want to be slaved by property with collecting every furniture which cannot complete his meaningless life, he want to change his way of life. The explosion means freedom and this action is leading him to find his essence. At first Jack did not realize that he blew the condominium, because he did it as Tyler but Tyler told him that Jack did it by himself. It is true because even though Jack did not admit it, he and Tyler are the same person, which means if Tyler did it, it was Jack who did it.
Another proof that Jack has blown up his condominium is in the dialogue before the car accident scene. Tyler said that he blew up Jack condominium, because Jack is pathetic, Jack always trying to control everything, his condominium enslaved him. And Tyler blew it up to give freedom to Jack, to let him stop control everything. Because Jack and Tyler are the same person, it means that Jack blew his condominium by himself. Tyler just helped him to escape.

**Jack** : Quit screwing around, take the wheel  
**Tyler** : Look at you...look at you! You're a fucking pathetic.  
**Jack** : Why? Why? What are you talking about?  
**Tyler** : Why do you think I blew up your condo?  
**Jack** : What?  
**Tyler** : Hitting bottom is not a weekend-retreat, it's not a goddamn seminar. Stop trying controlling everything and just let go. Let go!  
**Jack** : Alright, fine! Fine.  

(1:35:36-1:36:02)

Below is another conversation between Jack and Tyler as his alter ego that leads Jack to find his essence and defines himself afterward; it is also the most crucial moment for Jack because creates Tyler has taught him everything about the way how Jack living in material possessions is not giving him the meaning of life. Tyler said that the condominium that has blown is not the worst thing that could happened, but Jack thinks that is a serious problem because when he thinks he buys a sofa, a stereo or a he is going to be completed. The conversation later will change the way of Jack thinking and continue as and individual action to define essence of his living.

**Tyler** : You know man, could be worse. A woman could cut off your penis while you're sleeping and toss it out the window of a moving car.
Jack: There's always that. I don't know, it's just...when you buy furniture, you tell yourself: that's it, that's the last sofa I'm gonna need. No matter what else happens, I've got that sofa problem handled. I had it all. I had a stereo that was very decent, a wardrobe that was getting very respectable. I was so close to being complete.

Tyler: Shit, man, now it's all gone.

Jack: All gone.

Tyler: Do you know what a duvet is?

Jack: Comforter.

Tyler: It's a blanket, just a blanket. Now why guys like you and I know what a duvet is? Is this essential to our survival? In the hunter-gathered sense of the word? No. What are we then?

Jack: You know, consumers.

Tyler: Right. We're consumers. We're by-products of a lifestyle obsession. Murder, crime, poverty, these things don't concern me. What concerns me is celebrity magazines, television with five hundred channels, some guy's name on my underwear. Rogaine, Viagra, Olestra.

Jack: Martha Stewart.

Tyler: Fuck Martha Stewart. Martha's polishes on the brass of the Titanic. It's all going down, man! So fuck off, with your sofa units and your green stripe patterns. I say never be complete. I say stop being perfect. I say let's evolve and let the chips fall where they may. But that's me, I could be wrong, maybe it's a terrible tragedy.

Jack: No, it's just stuff.

Tyler: Well, you did lose a lot of versatile solutions for a modern life.

Jack: Fuck, you're right.

Jack: No, I don't smoke. My insurance will probably cover it, so...

Jack: What?

Tyler: The things you own, end up owing you. But do what you like, man.

(28:00-30:05)

At the moment when Jack finds out that his condominium has blown up, he calls Tyler because he does not know any person to call, talk with Tyler in public telephone it is just the way of Jack talk to another himself. Jack went to the local bar and starts the conversation about consumerism and material possessions with
Tyler; actually he was talking to himself. After that Jack thinks Tyler offers him to stay in his place because Jack has no more place to go. Jack accepts Tyler’s offer and agree to stay in Tyler house. Later, Jack knows that Tyler stay in the abandoned house but he still agree. Jack’s choice to move with Tyler is the next action to Jack to find his essence.

Tyler : You called me so you could have a place to stay.
Jack : Hey, no, no, no--
Tyler : Yes you did. Just ask. Cut the foreplay and just ask, man.
Jack : Wou--Would that be a problem?
Tyler : Is it a problem for you to ask?
Jack : Can I stay at your place?
Tyler : Yeah.
Jack : ...Thanks.

Move in to the abandoned house is the next Jack’s actions to escape him, to deal with freedom and separated him from material possessions. Living in the abandoned house with Tyler is the opposite situation compares to living in Jack’s condominium. The condominium enslaved him, but the abandoned house escaped him from material possession.

Jack as Narrator : I don't know how Tyler found the house, but he said he'd been there for a year. It looked like it was waiting to be torn down. Most of the windows were boarded up. There was no lock in the front door from the police or whoever kicked it in. The stairs were ready to collapse. I don't know if he owned it or it was squatting. Neither would have surprised me. Every time it rained we had to kill the power. By the end of the first month I didn't miss TV. I didn't even mind the warm, stale refrigerator. It used to be that when I came home angry and depressed. I'd just clean my condo. Polish my Scandinavian furniture. I should've been looking for a new condo. I should've been haggling with my insurance company. I should've been upset about my nice neat flaming little shit. But I wasn't.
Even though the house is abandoned and nothing works there, but Jack gets used to live there without any fancy furniture that he collects to cure his loneliness, he did not miss the TV. He is able to find the new condominium and ask the insurance company to change the new one, but he does not do that, because he is no longer need his condominium, he chooses to stay living with Tyler, because abandoned house has nothing to do with things he should collect or to complete.

When living in condominium Jack always comes home from work angry and depressed, and he cleans the condominium or cleans his furniture to fill his emptiness, but living in abandoned house makes him not do that cleaning activities anymore, he can escape himself from consumerism. Even though Jack thinks that the house is belong to Tyler, in fact the house is rented with Jack’s name, so Jack moves in to abandoned house at Paper Street as his action to define his essence.

Next action is Jack starts the Fight Club with Tyler. After they meet at the bar and had some conversation, Tyler offers Jack to stay at his place and Jack agrees, but Tyler request Jack to do some flavor which is to hit him because Tyler want to know how fighting feels like. They both never have been in a fight but try to feel the sensation of fighting, because they want to know themselves what it feels like to be in a fight. Jack refuses at the start and says it is crazy because hitting someone without any reason in unethical is crazy, but Tyler encourages Jack to go crazy. What Tyler means here is being free, doing something without getting worried on anything. Finally Jack hits Tyler, Tyler hits back and they
begin to slug each other and go crazy. They kind of enjoy it and Jack asks to fight
again next time.

Tyler : I want you to hit me as hard as you can.
Jack : What?
Tyler : I want you to hit me as hard as you can.
Jack : Well, what do you want me to do? You want me to hit you?
Tyler : C’mon, do me this one favor.
Jack : Why?
Tyler : Why? I don’t know why. I don’t know. Never been in a 
fight, you?
Jack : No, but that’s a good thing.
Tyler : No, it is not! How much can you know about yourself if 
you’ve never been in a fight? I don’t want to die without any scars.
Tyler : Come on, hit me, before I lose my nerve.
Jack : This is crazy.
Tyler : So go crazy. Let ‘er rip.
Jack : I don’t know about this.
Tyler : I don’t either. Who gives a shit? No one’s watching. 
What do you care?
Jack : This is crazy, you want me to hit you?
Tyler : That’s right.
Jack : We should do this again sometime. (32:49-34:28)

Jack and Tyler fight again later in the same place they had fighting which is
at the back of the local bar that they first had a fight and this time some men see
them while they both were fighting, the men ask them to join the fight. As time
goes by there are a lot of men that begin to join the fight, and they decide to move
the fight in the basement of the bar. Jack and Tyler give the name as Fight Club
and make some rules of how they should fight.

Jack : Every week, Tyler gave the rules that he and I decided.
Tyler : Gentlemen! Welcome to Fight Club.
Tyler : The first rule of Fight Club is you do not talk about 
Fight Club. The second rule of Fight Club is you do not talk about Fight Club. The third rule of Fight Club someone yells stop, goes limp, taps out, the fight is
Four rule only two guys to a fight. Fifth rule one fight at a time fellows. Sixth rule no shirts, no shoes. Seventh rule fights will go on as long as they have to. And the eighth and final rule, if this is your first night at Fight Club, you have to fight.

Fight Club gives essence to Jack’s life and somehow his life has changed to be better than before. He said that he could deal with anything, fighting makes him more manly than he used to be. He is now brave and being free as to act or to do anything he wants, when Tyler asks whom he could fight, he even said that he wants to fight his boss that he is afraid of before. There is no fear inside of Jack now, since Fight Club begins he is no longer afraid of anything, he is now becomes free and do everything that gives him meaning to find essence for himself.

**Jack as Narrator**: After fighting, everything else in your life gets the volume turned down.

**Jack**: What?

**Jack as Narrator**: You can deal with anything.

**Boss**: Have you finished those reports?

**Jack as Narrator**: The people who had power over you, have less and less.

**Tyler**: If you could fight anyone, who would you fight?

**Jack**: I’d fight my boss, probably.

**Tyler**: Really?

**Jack**: Yeah, why, who would you fight?

**Tyler**: I’d fight my dad.

Fight Club suddenly becomes some kind of therapy for Jack, it is way much better than the testicular cancer group of men which he attended before where the men used to be weak, they were crying and pretending to be dying. Fight Club exactly is the opposite, when Jack cried in the testicular cancer group of men, he did not cry in Fight Club, Fight Club makes Jack becomes masculine and
eliminates his weakness because Fight Club represents stereotype of men who are strong. Also Jack is not alone anymore because everyone joins Fight Club. He is strong now, he never cries again, he can sleep, he finds freedom and Fight Club eliminate his depression.

*Jack as Narrator*: But every Saturday night, we were finding something out...we were finding out, more and more, that we were not alone. It used to be that when I came home angry and depressed. I'd just clean my condo. Polish my Scandinavian furniture. I should've been looking for a new condo. I should've been haggling with my insurance company. I should've been upset about my nice neat flaming little shit. But I wasn't. Monday mornings, all I could do was think about next week. It was right in everyone's face. Tyler and I made it visible. It was on the tip of everyone's tongue. Tyler and I just gave it a name.

(38:55-40:03)

Fight Club makes everyone becomes strong, including Jack. When a man comes to Fight Club as a weak person, after join Fight Club he will be strong man who gets strong body. Fight Club only exists when it started and when its over, it means even Fight Club only occurs on several hours, but it gives Jack ability to release his depression, in Fight Club he becomes what he wanted to be, he feels alive and he becomes true of himself.

*Jack as Narrator*: Sometimes all you could hear were flat, hard packing sounds over the yelling, or the wet choke when someone caught their breath and sprayed. You weren't alive anywhere like you were there. But Fight Club only exists in the hours between when Fight Club starts and Fight Club ends. Even if I could tell someone they had a good fight, I wouldn't be talking to the same man. Who you were in Fight Club is not who you were in the rest of the world. A guy came to Fight Club for the first time, his ass was a wad of cookie dough. After a few weeks, he was carved out of wood.

(42:11-42:48)
Fight Club is not about who wins or who loses; it is not the concern of Fight Club. When the shouting of fighting makes it sacred like a Pentecostal church, it means like the shouting of exorcism or baptism of the Holy Spirit that healing, Fight Club is healing. Jack and every man in Fight Club felt saved, he said that when fighting is over nothing is solved but nothing really mattered, it means that even though Fight Club does not solve their problem or anything but it does not matter as long as after they fight they felt saved, it gives them reason to cut their hair and trim their fingernails, because Fight Club has manly reason to do it, which is to fight.

*Jack as Narrator*: Fight Club wasn't about winning or losing. It wasn't about words. The hysterical shouting was in tongues, like at a Pentecostal Church. When the fight was over, nothing solved but nothing mattered. After all we are felt saved. Fight Club became the reason to cut your hair short or trim your fingernails. (44:07-44:57)

Fight Club gives satisfaction to Jack, when everyone looks at him unfriendly because of the bruises from fighting, it does not make him ashamed. Instead he is being comfortable with it and he feels enlightened. He gives up the condominium life, give up all his material possessions, and live in abandoned house to become free.

*Jack as Narrator*: I got right in everyone's hostile little face. Yes, these are my bruises from fighting. Yes, I'm comfortable with that. I am enlightened. You give up the condo life, give up all your flaming worldly possessions, go live in a dilapidated house in the toxic waste part of town. (53:06-53:25)

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44 Relating to, or denoting any of a number of Christian sects and individuals emphasizing baptism in the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues, prophecy, healing, and exorcism.
With Fight Club, the Jack’s way of thinking has changed. Everywhere he went he always criticized everything, it is because he has escaped from the world of consumerism and he is not consumptive anymore. He felt sorry for the guy on advertising that goes to the gym only to make him looks like what the advertising (Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger) said they should, the guy is not being himself, because what he does is what the modern society told him.

*Jack as Narrator*: We all started seeing things differently. Everywhere we went, we were sizing things up. I felt sorry for the guys packing into gyms, trying to look like Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger said they should.

*Jack*: Is that how a man looks like?

*Tyler*: Ah, self-improvement is masturbation. And self-destruction...

*Man on the bus*: Excuse me.

(43:05-43:30)

Jack feels that he is calm and now he becomes the part of the world, it means that he is no longer feel worry and lonely anymore because Fight Club has enlightened him, he becomes the little center of the world means he has value of his existence. He said that he is the Zen Master, it means now he has value of himself and can control everything without being under control. Jack’s life has become authentic and free.

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45 A Japanese school of Mahayana Buddhism emphasizing the value of meditation and intuition.
Jack as Narrator: I became the calm, little center of the world. I was the Zen master. I wrote a little haiku poems. I e-mailed them to everyone.

(52:38-52:50)

Jack also wrote haiku poems and emailed it to everyone as an action that since he was in Fight Club he has enlightened. The poem says that “worker bees can leave, even the drones can fly away, the queen is their slave” is describing about escaping himself from being enslaved by the reality that he has been living before. The reality that forces him to become what the society told him.

From all of the actions that Jack chooses to change his life because he feels that his life has no value and meaningless, he finally can eliminate his depression, consumerism and weakness. He successfully defines his essence and becomes an existentialist who has authentic life. Therefore, the writer finds that every Jack’s individual actions represent existence precedes essence concept from Sartre’s existentialism theory.

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46 A Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

In this thesis, the writer analyzes *Fight Club*, an American film, directed by David Fincher released in United States on October 15, 1999 and distributed by 20th Century Fox. It is an adaptation from the novel with same title by Chuck Palahniuk released in 1996. The focus of the research is to analyze the characteristics of Jack’s existence as the main character and analyze how Jack defines his essence by his actions. The writer uses the qualitative research with descriptive analytic method and the *existence precedes essence* concept from the theory of existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre.

Based on the analysis, the characteristics of Jack’s existence as the main character portrayed as depressive, consumptive and weak person. Jack is depressed because his job that obligates him to travel by plane to investigate the car accident of the costumers of his company. Because of the jet lag from the flight, he suffers from insomnia. The insomnia, many reports that he must finish, has no social life and emptiness in his life; all of these problems make him depressed. Jack also a consumptive person, because he lives in the world of consumerism and modern society under capitalism. Because of capitalism, Jack becomes a consumptive person and he buys everything he does not need just because the advertising tells him what to buy. Jack is a weak person because he attends the support group of weak people with disease, he pretends that he is the
victim of the disease and he joins purpose to cure his insomnia, but he becomes a weak person instead because he cries in every meeting in the group.

The writer gets the conclusion that, to define his essence in his life Jack chooses every action as an individual person that later will make great development to his life. First action is Jack creates Tyler Durden because he cannot handle his problem by himself. With the help of Tyler, Jack is able to define his essence. Next action is Jack blows up his condominium and moves to the abandoned house to escape from consumerism. And then Jack creates Fight Club to eliminate his depression and his weakness. With Fight Club, Jack becomes strong and enlightened. He finally can live authentically because of his actions. He finds freedom with being true of himself, and he finds his essence as an existentialist.

B. Suggestion

Based on the analysis, the writer finds that it is possible for the other researchers who are interested to analyze *Fight Club* or the main character by using different theory. *Fight Club* film can be analyzed by using different theory, such as psychoanalysis theory, because Jack as the main character has psychological problem, which is he has Multiple Disorder Personality. Therefore, the writer suggests that other researchers who want to analyze psychological problem of the main character in *Fight Club* film, can use psychoanalysis theory.
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