ABSTRACT

Ajizah, SitiNur. 2017. A Study of Mona's Existence: Freedom and Responsibility in Dee Ernst's *Better Off Without Him*. Thesis.English Department.Faculty of Arts and Humanities. State Islamic University SunanAmpel Surabaya.

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In this thesis, the writer analyses Dee Ernst's novel *Better Off Without Him*. This study focuses on analyzing Mona as the main character shows her existence and her struggle to defend her existence. This study also analyzed the influences of Mona' existence toward other people around her.The aims of this thesis are to reveal Mona Quincy's existence in *Better Off Without Him* novel based on Jean Paul Sartre's perspective on existentialism theory, and to expose the influence of Mona's existence toward other people around her. Since the study discussed about the existence, this study used existentialism theory. Jean Paul Sartre's theory is used by the writer. This theory has five values of existentialism;those areexistence precedes essence, freedom, responsibility, self-reliance, and bad faith. Meanwhile, the writer also used psychological approach to know the psychological motivations of the character does the struggles. The writer analyzed the data collected by categorizing them into three points which include inthe category of freedom, responsibilityand self-reliance. As the result, Mona Quincy decided to be a historical romance writer. But because she got dumped by her husband and got depression, so she could not be able to write romance. She has the responsibility to maintain her existence with her struggle by doing changing her book genre becomes an anti-romance writing. Then her identity as a successful anti-romance is founded. While the influences of Mona Quincy's existence are her new books could amaze the readers and agents. She gets good responses and appreciations from them. Her new book also could motivate one of the readers in making a movie based on her book.

Keywords: existence, freedom, responsibility

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