Saman’s Struggle for Meaning in Ayu Utami’s *Saman:*

A Psychoexistentialism Perspective

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Abstract

In any condition of life, people always search for meaning to give their life goal to direction and they will do anything for it. Meaning is individual and may change. As an imitation of life, literary works also describe one’s search for meaning. *Saman* is one. It is interesting to examine because the main character is a Catholic priest who decided to leave the Holy Order for what he considers more meaningful. This study aimed to discover what Saman does to get meaningful life from the perspective of psychoexistentialism. Psychoexistentialism was chosen because it believes that human beings’ search for meaningfulness is the essence of life. The analysis reveals that Saman’s struggle to find his meaningful life. The findings will make the readers know about the concept of meaning in life, and have a new point of view about meaningfulness.

Key words: Psychoexistentialism, meaning, struggle