

**SOPHIE AMUNDSEN'S SEARCH FOR EXISTENCE  
IN JOSTEIN GAARDER'S *SOPHIE'S WORLD***

**THESIS**

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## ABSTRACT

Probowati, Catur Heni. 2014. **Sophie Amundsen's Search for Existence in Jostein Gaarder's *Sophie's World***. Study Program of English, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: M. Andhy Nurmansyah; Co-supervisor: Fariska Pujiyanti.

Keywords: existence, philosophy, existentialism, identity

Existentialism is one of the philosophical ways to search one's existence and identity. And *Sophie's World* is one of novels which used philosophy as its main theme. Therefore, this main character of this novel, Sophie, is chosen as a kind of manifestation of human beings' struggle in gaining their existences and identities. In this study, the writer identifies; (1) Why Sophie Amundsen searches for her existence; (2) How she finds her existence.

The writer proposes qualitative approach to describe Sophie's reasons and efforts in gaining her existence and identity. And in describing her reasons and efforts, the answers of the research problems are automatically answered. Also, this study uses philosophical approach and Existentialism as its main theme in searching the answer. This is hoped to get the deep understanding of Sophie's actions.

The truth regarding Sophie's existence is that she was only a character in a book. For that reason, it was not accepted for her to keep quiet and do nothing. Her worth was shown as an entity albeit she was not a human. For her, at least her mind and thought did exist. To show her worth, she tried to defy her creator who wrote the book where she existed. And she also tried to live an authentic life. It was not accepted for her to merge in crowd and be anonymous. Her struggles were hard and difficult however it was needed for her. The struggles could give a meaning for her existence in her seemingly meaningless world.

The writer suggests the biographical approach will be used in the next research. Then the understanding regarding the author of *Sophie's World*, Jostein Gaarder, can be found.

## ABSTRAK

Probowati, Catur Heni. 2014. **Pencarian Eksistensi Sophie Amundsen dalam Jostein Gaarder *Sophie's World***. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing (I): M. Andhy Nurmansyah; Pembimbing (II): Fariska Pujiyanti.

Kata Kunci: eksistensi, filosofi, eksistensialisme, identitas

Eksistensialisme adalah salah satu cara dalam filosofi untuk mencari eksistensi dan identitas seseorang. Dan *Sophie's World* merupakan novel yang menggunakan filosofi sebagai tema utama. Sehingga, karakter utama novel ini, dipilih sebagai bentuk manifestasi dari perjuangan manusia untuk mendapatkan eksistensi dan identitasnya. Dalam studi ini, penulis ingin mengidentifikasi; (1) Kenapa Sophie Amundsen mencari eksistensi dirinya; (2) Bagaimana dia mencari eksistensi dirinya.

Penulis mengajukan pendekatan kualitatif untuk menjelaskan alasan dan usaha Sophie dalam mendapatkan eksistensi dan identitas dirinya. Dan dalam menjelaskan alasan dan usaha Sophie, penjelasan dari permasalahan penelitian ini akan dijawab secara otomatis. Studi ini juga menggunakan pendekatan secara filosofis dan Eksistensialisme sebagai topik utama dalam mencari jawaban. Dengan ini diharapkan tindakan Sophie akan mendapat pemahaman lebih lanjut.

Eksistensi Sophie yang sebenarnya adalah dia merupakan sebuah karakter di dalam buku. Untuk alasan itu pula, dia tidak dapat hanya tinggal diam dan tidak melakukan apa-apa. Nilai Sophie diperlihatkan sebagai sebuah entitas walaupun dia bukan manusia. Baginya, setidaknya pikiran dan kehendak dirinya benar-benar ada. Untuk menunjukkan nilainya, dia berusaha menentang pembuatnya yang menulis buku dimana Sophie tinggal. Dan dia juga berusaha untuk hidup sesuai dengan keinginannya. Menyatu dalam 'kerumunan' dan menjadi tidak terlihat adalah hal yang tidak dapat diterima olehnya. Perjuangan Sophie sangat keras dan sulit namun itu perlu dilakukan olehnya. Perjuangannya dapat memberikan makna dalam eksistensi dirinya di dunia yang terlihat tanpa arti ini.

Penulis menyarankan pendekatan secara biografis untuk digunakan dalam penelitian selanjutnya. Dengan itu, pemahaman tentang penulis *Sophie's World*, Jostein Gaarder, dapat ditemukan.

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