SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR'S FEMINIST EXISTENTIALISM IN TAYLOR JENKINS REID'S *MAYBE IN ANOTHER LIFE*

A THESIS

Presented in a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Completing the Sarjana Degree in Department of English Literature

By:

SANCA ODIGITRIA MANESANULU
1612200028

FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA
UNIVERSITAS 17 AGUSTUS 1945 SURABAYA

2026

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This is to certify that the Sarjana Thesis of SANCA ODIGITRIA MANESANULU entitled "**SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR'S FEMINIST EXISTENTIALISM IN TAYLOR JENKINS REID'S *MAYBE IN ANOTHER LIFE*"** has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the Examining Committee.

Surabaya, 17 Juni 2026
Advisor,

Lindsia Marsih, S.S., M.Pd.

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APPROVAL SHEET II

This is to certify that the Sarjana Thesis of SANCA ODIGITRIA MANESANULU entitled **"SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR'S FEMINIST EXISTENTIALISM IN TAYLOR JENKINS REID'S *MAYBE IN ANOTHER LIFE"*** has been examined and approved by thesis Examining Committee as the requirement for Sarjana Degree in English Literature.

Surabaya, 29 June 2026

Thesis Examining Committee

Drs. Yoseph Bavo Agung Prasaja, M.Hum. — Chairperson

Mateus Rudi Supsiadji, S.S., M.Pd. — Secretary

Linusia Marsih, S.S., M.Pd. — Member

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MOTTO

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me..."
(Psalm 23:4)

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I sincerely hope that success, happiness, and abundant blessings will always accompany all of us in the future.

Surabaya, 17 Juni 2026

Sanca Odigitria Manesanulu

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ABSTRACT

Patriarchal structures have long confined women to subordinate roles, and literature offers a space to examine such structures and women's responses to them. This study uses feminist literary criticism, guided by Simone de Beauvoir's feminist existentialism framework to examine Hannah Martin's position as a woman and how her choices across two parallel life paths reflect her movement within that position, in Taylor Jenkins Reid's *Maybe in Another Life* (2015), a narrative built around a single choice that divides Hannah's life into two trajectories. The research addresses two questions, the conditions shaping Hannah's position as a woman, and how her choices reflect her movement within that position. The study applies four concepts from Beauvoir's framework, woman as the Other, freedom and choice, transcendence and immanence, and the social construction of feminine identity. The method is descriptive qualitative, with the novel as the primary data source and the researcher as the main instrument for collecting and interpreting narrations, dialogues, and character actions. The results show that before the novel's split, Hannah exists within conditions that position her as the Other, including relational dependence, economic instability, and surrendering decisions to fate. Across both paths, Hannah moves toward self-direction and the claiming of her own subjecthood, though neither path concludes with complete freedom. The study reveals that confinement deepens when relational dependence is reinforced by economic instability and belief in fate, while transcendence remains an ongoing process, contributing to understanding how fiction represents women's positions as situated and continuously negotiated.

Keywords: *Female Agency, Feminist Existentialism, Immanance, Transcendence*

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