

Existentialism in
***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* by Edward Albee**



Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
For the *Sarjana Sastra* Degree of the English Department
Faculty of Cultural Science
Sebelas Maret University

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2016

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Existentialism in

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf by Edward Albee

By:

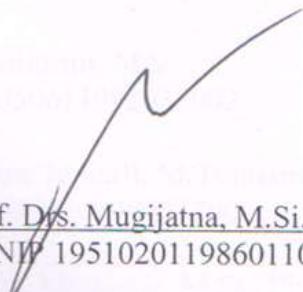
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States wholeheartedly that the thesis entitled **EXISTENTIALISM IN ‘WHO’S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF’ BY EDWARD ALBEE** is originally made by the researcher. It is neither a plagiarism nor made by others. The things related to other people’s works are written in quotation and included in bibliography.

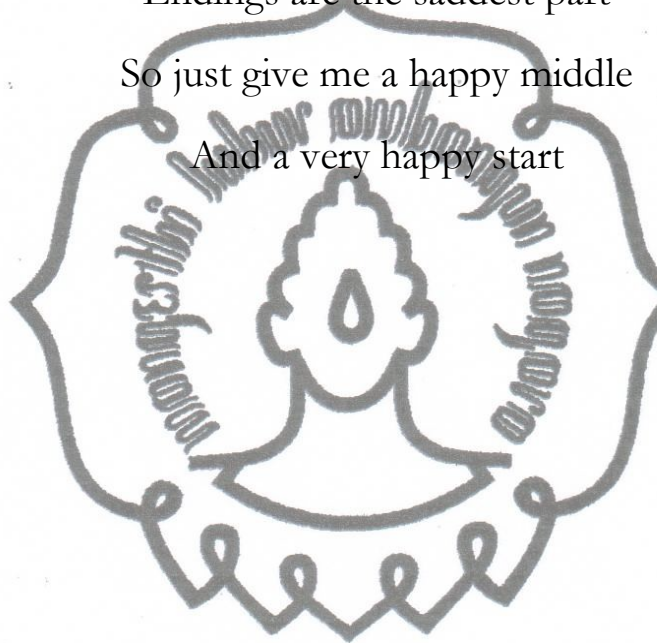
If it is later discovered and proven that this pronouncement is prevaricating, the researcher is ready to take on any consequences from English Department of Sebelas Maret University, including the withdrawal of the Degree.

Surakarta, May 2016

Clara Ayu Paramitha

MOTTO

There are no happy endings
Endings are the saddest part
So just give me a happy middle
And a very happy start



Richard John Grayson

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DEDICATION

For myself,

and

My beloved family



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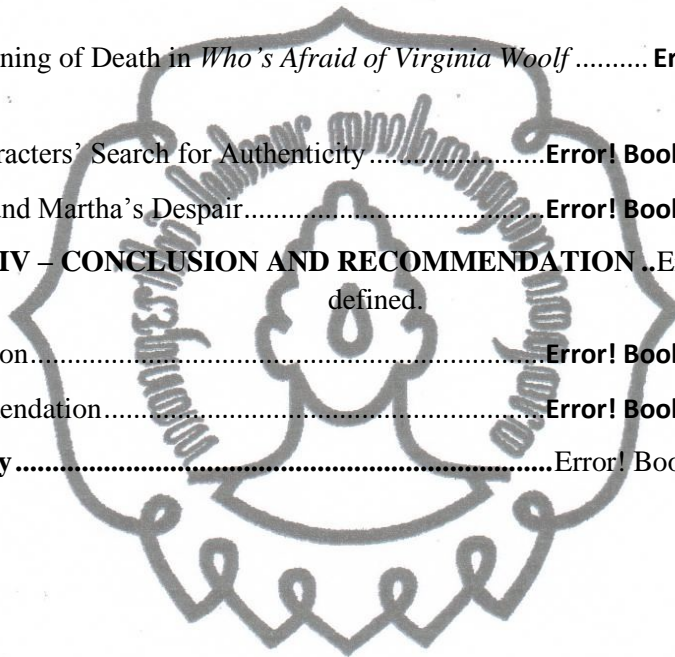
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ABSTRACT

CLARA AYU PARAMITHA. C0310011. **Existentialism in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* by Edward Albee**. Thesis. English Department, Faculty of Cultural Science, Sebelas Maret University. Surakarta. 2016.

This research intends to describe existentialism in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* by Edward Albee. This research is a descriptive qualitative research which is done under the framework of English Literature limited to existentialism as one of areas of its study. This research takes *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* by Edward Albee as source of data. Some forms of its dialogues, sentences, phrases and words are taken as primary data. This inquiry is completed also with secondary data in the form of any relevant information from books, journals and online sources. From the analysis, several elements of existentialism which can be found in the play are 'Existence precedes Essence', 'Man creates himself', pain of existing, anguish, choice, death, authenticity and despair. The characters were struggling to find the meaning of their existence. They struggled to make sense of their life and to invent themselves. The characters were aware that they experienced anguish and pain of existing. They were trying to find their authenticity. However, at the end of the play, none of the characters managed to reach an authentic being. Some of the characters felt that it was enough to live in the illusion, trapped in their 'self-deception' because it means that they did not have to face their existential pain. The other half of the characters, while managing to face their existential pain, were trapped in despair because of the uncertainty of the absurdity in their life.