



## The Meaninglessness of life in Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*

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### Abstract

The study aims to explore the meaninglessness of life in Jojo Moyes' novel "*Me Before You*" the profound theme of the meaninglessness of life through the poignant and complex relationship between its two central characters, Louisa Clark and Will Traynor. The story delves into the existential questions surrounding the value of life, the consequences of personal choices, and the moral dilemmas associated with assisted suicide. Moyes skillfully weaves a narrative that underscores the importance of human connections, empathy, and the potential for personal growth even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. "*Me Before You*" ultimately challenges readers to reflect on the fragility of life, the role of love in finding purpose, and the moral dilemmas that arise when one's autonomy clashes with societal norms.

**Keywords:** Death, jojo Moyes Novel, Meaninglessness of life, *Me Before You*



## عشية الحياة في رواية أنا قبلك لجوجو مويس

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### المستخلص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف عشيّة الحياة في رواية "أنا قبلك" للكاتبة جوجو مويس، حيث تتجلى هذه الصورة العميقة من خلال العلاقة المؤثرة والمعقدة بين شخصيتيها الرئيسيتين، لويزا كلارك وويل تراينور. تتناول الرواية تساؤلات وجودية حول قيمة الحياة، وعواقب القرارات الشخصية، والمآزق الأخلاقية المرتبطة بالموت الرحيم. وتتمكن مويس بمهارة من نسج سردٍ يبرز أهمية الروابط الإنسانية، والتعاطف، وإمكانية النمو الشخصي حتى في مواجهة التحديات التي تبدو مستعصية. في النهاية، تدفع "أنا قبلك" القراء إلى التأمل في هشاشة الحياة، ودور الحب في إيجاد المعنى، والمآزق الأخلاقية التي تنشأ عندما تتعارض استقلالية الفرد مع الأعراف المجتمعية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: رواية جوجو مويس، الموت، أنا قبلك، عشيّة الحياة

## 1. Introduction

Pauline Sara is a renowned scholar in the field. Jojo Moyes, also known as Jojo Moyes, was born on August 4, 1969, in Maidstone, England, and was brought up in London. The individual characterized her parents as "bohemian" and her upbringing as "eccentric." After gaining experience in many occupations, including multiple roles as a minicab controller, she successfully obtained a journalism degree from City University. Following the completion of her academic studies, she embarked on a professional journey in the field of journalism, which spanned a decade. Notably, during this period, Moyes dedicated one year to her work in Hong Kong, where she contributed to the South China Morning Post as a writer. Additionally, she contributed to The Independent newspaper in the United Kingdom, where she held the position of Arts and Media reporter for a certain duration. During her employment as a journalist during nocturnal hours, Moyes started the composition of fictional works in order to occupy her idle daytime hours. The author's first three literary works faced rejection in the publishing industry; however, her fourth book, titled "Sheltering Rain," was successfully accepted by a literary agency and subsequently published in the year 2002. Currently, Moyes has achieved the publication of twelve books.

*Me Before You* is a literary work that explores the plight of a wealthy individual called William Traynor, often referred to as Will. Prior to the occurrence of the tragedy, William was depicted as someone characterized by a proclivity for adventure, physical attractiveness, and a strong will to achieve his goals. However, subsequent to his involvement in a motorbike accident resulting in quadriplegia, he had a profound transformation, exhibiting signs of discontent, a negative demeanor, despair, and a lack of concern for both his own well-being and social interactions. Prior to her acquaintance with Louisa Clark, better known as Lou, William had been grappling with the concept of life's significance. However, after the motorcycle accident that caused William to lose his own sense of purpose, Louisa gradually began to impart her newfound understanding of life's meaning onto him.

### Statement of the Problem

Due to its recent publication, the work has not garnered sufficient critical scrutiny and academic analysis. The primary objective of this research is to examine the theme of existential nihilism as portrayed in Jojo Moyes's novel, *Me Before You*. The present concept will be examined in relation to the motif of mortality as it is portrayed in the literary work, taking into account an existentialist framework.

## Objectives of the study

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To investigate the event that made the protagonists see the death better than life in the novel Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*.
2. To tackle the reasons of 'meaningless' according to the author.
3. To discuss the mutual influence exerted on the character's live.
4. To reach an ultimate definition of a "meaninglessness of life" as the novel tries to present it.

## Questions of the study

1. What are the events that made the protagonist see death as better than life in Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*?
2. What are the reasons behind which life becomes meaningless?
3. How the death of the protagonist does affects the characters around them?

## Significance of the study

Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You* explores death as portrayed in William's struggle with his illness "quadriplegia" that caused him to lose his four limbs and torso. Therefore, death is admissible as Jojo presents events in views that are more explicit.

Finally, the topic will be discussed in relation to the suggested themes. The aforementioned points prove the importance of the study in general and the unique theme of the novel namely "meaninglessness of life", in particular.

## Limits of the study

This study will be concerned with the thematic analysis of death in Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*. In addition, it will adopt a systematic literary approach to the topic, namely, the meaninglessness of life, and theoretical examples will be provided.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

### 2.1 Key Words

#### 2.1.1 Existentialism:

Existentialism is a philosophical framework that enables the realization of really human existence within a universe devoid of inherent purpose and characterized by absurdity [2]. In essence, existentialism is a philosophical ideology that pertains to the fundamental aspects of human life, including the emotional, behavioral, ethical, and cognitive dimensions of the individual.

According to the philosophical perspective of Jean-Paul Sartre (1948), it may be argued that every individual is inherently burdened with the condition of freedom, since humans are not responsible for their own existence. Upon being thrust into existence, the individual is endowed with the freedom to exercise their will, so enabling them to choose from a myriad of available choices. Consequently, they bear the burden of accountability for the consequences of their actions.

The concept of freedom is characterized by its lack of constraints or limitations. The concept of freedom gives individuals the agency to make their own choices and choose their own desires. As an example, William Traynor, a person of substantial wealth, encountered a predicament whereby he found himself unable to make decisions due to the presence of a debilitating condition known as "quadriplegia". Furthermore, within the narrative of *Thirteen Reasons Why*, the character Hannah Baker experiences the loss of her virginity followed by her untimely demise, which may be attributed to the persistent acts of bullying perpetrated by her peers at Liberty High School.

[1] has a divergent viewpoint on this subject matter. He had a skeptical view on the efficacy of passion. He did not see a profound passion as a forceful current that compels an individual to engage in specific behaviors due to predetermined circumstances, and therefore, it should not be used as a justification for such actions.

Individuals experiencing the existential vacuum have difficulty articulating their life objectives when confronted with inquiries on the purpose or significance of existence. This scenario might result in a state referred to by Yalom as a life devoid of purpose.

According to [3], in his work titled "Existential Psychotherapy," the concept of meaninglessness refers to the inability to discover purpose in life. It encompasses the sentiment of having no reason to live, no objectives to strive for, and no aspirations to hold onto. This state of being is characterized by a lack of direction or goals, where individuals may exert effort in their endeavors but find themselves devoid of any higher aspirations.

Eagleton (2008) characterizes the concept of meaninglessness in life as a state when an individual is unable to discern the inherent value or significance of their existence. The individual in question leads a life devoid of meaningful objectives and struggles to grasp the reason for their existence. In summary, an individual lacks both aspirations and fervor in the context of the inherently purposeless existence they lead.

## 2.2 Death in literature:

In a broader sense, literature serves as a reflection of societal concerns, particularly in relation to mortality, offering many viewpoints on the manifestations of death. However, obtaining solid information about the experience of death is challenging due to the secretive and enigmatic character of this occurrence, which continues to be incomprehensible and unknowable [9].

The prolongation of death scenes in literary works, such as Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*, serves as a significant and dramatic means of conveying insights into the concept of tragedy [9]. Classical tragedy revolves the enduring anguish experienced by its characters, often culminating in the untimely death of the tragic hero, accompanied by a process of self-realization. It is noteworthy to mention that the author Jojo Moyes employs the classical tragedy style in her work titled *Me Before You*. The protagonist, William Traynor, reaches the decision to end his life due to the profound limitations imposed by his condition of quadriplegia, which prevent him from pursuing his desired activities after the unfortunate incident. In addition, Jay Asher, an American author, used the emotional and cognitive aspects of the characters' actions as a means to construct the dialogues and talks inside the book. The novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher demonstrates the notion that individuals may experience a loss of personal autonomy due to certain circumstances. However, it is argued that this perspective does not fully align with the ideas put forward by Jean-Paul Sartre in 1948[1].

Death is a recurrent issue in literature, often explored as a subject, metaphor, or narrative device. The concept of existence was not only present inside the confines of the novel but also permeated many forms of literature, serving as a fundamental component in the works of contemporary poets, dramatists, and novelists. The cessation of human life has a profound impact on the state of consciousness, prompting contemplation on the significance and fundamental essence of being. The writers of these works have crafted their ideas with the intention of making them contemporary and appealing to a wide audience. According to [9].

This research reiterates the notion that individuals possess a delicate equilibrium between experiences of pain and feelings of hope. The level of freedom experienced by individuals is heightened when they are able to effortlessly attain their objectives. The individual's experience of agony sometimes leads them to believe that the discomfort will last indefinitely. The individual initiates a contemplation over the lack of purpose in life, afterwards opting to engage in the act of suicide. The concept of suicide has

been firmly entrenched in his consciousness, ultimately prompting him to seek release from life via death. Regarding William Traynor, his parents request that he prolong his life for a duration of six months. Presently, these days serve to reinforce this notion in his consciousness more resolutely than before, since it is during this timeframe that he encounters Louisa Clark and realizes his incapacity, despite his unsuccessful attempts, to establish a connection with her.

### 2.3 Related Works

This section is designed to be one part dealing with the theoretical literature concerning theories postulated to cover the situation of death in the novel of Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*. There are previous studies conducted on narratives techniques and certain theories applied to death and its consequences in existentialist literature.

In addition, literary theories are going to be used as a guidance for analyzing this study as well as the previous ones. The main purpose of literature review is to support the study's line of argument powerfully through exposing different viewpoints and divergent theories. The review of literature is divided into two general discussions. The first is concerned with the theory that discusses the concept of existentialism, while the second displays the previous studies that cover the notion of death in the novel of Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You*.

## 3. The Analytical Part

### 3.1 Results and Discussion

#### ***Me Before You*: Plot summary**

The narrative started with Louisa's termination from her position as a waitress, precipitated by the financial insolvency of the café. The individual proceeded to the Job Centre, where they subsequently secured a temporary job as a caregiver for William Traynor, an accomplished individual who had experienced a motorbike accident around two years before. Camilla Traynor, the mother of William, engages the services of Louisa to provide care for her son, alongside Nathan, who serves as William's private orderly, for a duration of six months. Based on the information provided by Nathan, it may be inferred that Louisa is aware of William's condition, characterized by a spinal cord injury at the C5/6 level, resulting in quadriplegia and complete loss of motor function in the hands, wrists, trunk, and lower extremities.

The first interactions between Louisa and William Traynor were characterized by a lack of harmony. In the first stages, William displayed a demeanor characterized by emotional detachment in response to Louisa's exuberant disposition. Subsequently, a period of fourteen days transpired during which the individuals involved were able to establish a mutually



beneficial and harmonious rapport. Under the attentive supervision of Louisa, William experienced a progressive transformation, displaying an increased sense of cheerfulness and communicativeness as they engaged in ongoing interpersonal exchanges. During the subsequent weeks [12], their interpersonal bond gradually strengthened. Through their numerous conversations, Louisa discovered that William's previous life was filled with excitement. In contrast, William Traynor began to see the constraints that characterize Louisa's existence. In an effort to inspire Louisa, he tried to provide her with a multitude of teachings pertaining to practical aspects of everyday life. Additionally, William provides guidance to Louisa on how to develop a sense of appreciation for the significance of life.

On a particular occasion, Louisa inadvertently became privy to Traynor's dialogue. Based on their conversation, Louisa was aware that William Traynor expressed a desire to pursue assisted suicide at Dignitas after a period of six months. Dignitas is a non-profit organization based in Switzerland that offers medically assisted suicide services facilitated by licensed Swiss physicians. Subsequently, Louisa resigns from her position as a caregiver due to her unwillingness to participate in a suicide endeavor. After departing from the Traynor residence, she proceeded to deliver a formal letter of resignation to Camilla Traynor. On the following day, Camilla Traynor visits the residence of Louisa and implores her to reconsider her decision and come back. Camilla Traynor conveyed to Louisa her commitment to use her utmost efforts over a span of six months in order to dissuade William from persisting with his desire for death. Subsequently, Louisa acquiesces to the proposition of returning and actively assists Camilla in persuading William to reconsider his choice [8].

Louisa visited the library and participated in a chatroom specifically designed for individuals with quadriplegia in order to explore opportunities for quadriplegic-friendly activities. She devised a series of excursions for William and afterwards communicated her proposed itinerary to his parents [8]. In general, Louisa desires for William to see his existence in a wheelchair as having inherent value. Louisa perceives her employment as advantageous both for herself and for others, as seen by her engagement in the excursion plan.

On the subsequent days, Louisa initiated the strategy for the excursion. The individual in question accompanied William to a horse racing event, thereafter attending a performance of a renowned classical musical composition. Additionally, it is worth noting that she had a tattoo. Additionally, they were there for the wedding celebration of William's former romantic partner. Louisa and William started cultivating profound emotions for one another, hence engendering sentiments of jealousy among Patrick, Louisa's enduring romantic partner, ultimately culminating in the



dissolution of their relationship.

Louisa's attempts to persuade the affluent individual, William, to relinquish his desire were unsuccessful, despite her being in the last month of her job agreement as a caregiver. While on an opulent excursion to Mauritius Island, Louisa expressed her affection for William. Louisa acknowledged that she had significant personal growth as a result of implementing William's recommendation. However, William conveyed to Louisa his continued intention to proceed with his plan to visit the Dignities facility for the purpose of ending his own life. He sent an invitation to Louisa to join him during his last moments in Switzerland, scheduled for one week from now. Louisa, experiencing profound emotional distress, has made the decision to tender her resignation upon her imminent return to England. Upon her return, she proceeded to disclose Traynor's confidential information to her family. The situation becomes further complex with Louisa's awareness of William's decision to go to Switzerland with the intention of ending his own life. Louisa refrained from venturing outside due to the presence of the awaiting reporters stationed outside her residence. Josie Clark, the mother, imposed a prohibition on her daughter's further involvement in Traynor's life. Nevertheless, Louisa remained committed to providing assistance to William due to her profound emotional attachment to him. Consequently, Louisa reaches a decision and travels to Switzerland in order to see William on his last day [7].

### **Me Before You as a Meaninglessness of Life**

According to Frankl and Pattakos (2008), it was determined that the creation of life's meaning does not originate from an individual. Meaning may be derived from several sources at any given moment. Every action we do in our lives may be seen as a manifestation of significance. The essence of human beings is intrinsically inside individuals and varies among individuals.

Frankl's logo therapy approach posits three roads to meaning as a means of ascertaining the worth of life. The individual posited that, in accordance with the principles of logo therapy, the quest for the meaning of life might be undertaken via three distinct avenues. [1] Through the act of producing a piece of work or engaging in a certain action. [2] by the process of personal experience or through interaction with another individual. In his work "1984," the author explores the impact of our approach to inevitable misery. The focal point of this work is on William. Hence, the present chapter undertakes an examination of the intrinsic constituents, namely the character analysis of William, the conflicts he encountered, and the contextual backdrop of the narrative in *Me Before You*.

The protagonist, William, has remarkable fortitude in asserting his autonomy and determining the trajectory of his own life within the context

of this literary work. The primary factor influencing his decision to terminate his life is his awareness of the impracticability of continuing to reside in a wheelchair. Despite the influence of others in his social circle attempting to manipulate his thoughts, and despite the presence of genuine love characterized by complete acceptance, which aimed to fortify him and save his life, he remained resolute in his determination to carry out his suicide plan. The lack of understanding about William Traynor's enduring existence in a wheelchair, despite encountering profound love from another individual, and his unwavering commitment to his intention to terminate his own life, remains a perplexing matter. The comprehension of William's emotional state remained elusive to them. Each individual has a unique subjective perception of life, resulting in a diverse range of personal experiences. The decisions made by William about his life are totally of his own will.

Hence, this thesis aims to examine existentialism from an intrinsic perspective by studying the portrayal of William Traynor's character in the book *Me Before You*, focusing on his embodiment of existentialist principles.

Following a motorbike accident, William's life saw a significant decline, characterized by profound misery and a pervasive sense of despair. The individual's lack of capability in doing tasks resulted in a profound self-loathing. The individual had a sense of incongruity with the notion that quadriplegia was predetermined as their fate, prompting them to endeavor to escape from this reality by altering their mindset. The individual made the decision to seclude himself. The individual in question exhibited a reluctance to engage with anyone in his immediate vicinity, including an assistant employed by his mother, who goes by the name of Louisa Clark or Lou. William's actions towards Louisa were rejection and attempts to create discomfort, similar to previous assistants who resigned from this position. Would you like me to make you a cup of tea?' I said, finally, when the silence became unbearable.

Ah. Yes. The girl who makes tea for a living. I wondered how long it would be before you wanted to show off your skills. No. No, thank you.

Coffee, then?

No hot beverages for me, just now, Miss Clark.

You can call me Lou.

Will it help?

I blinked, my mouth opening briefly. I closed it. Dad always said it made me look more stupid than I actually was. Well ... can I get you anything?

He turned to look at me. His jaw was covered in several weeks of stubble, and his eyes were unreadable. He turned away.

I'll – I cast around the room. I'll see if there's any washing, then. [4]

The aforementioned quote illustrates William's pessimistic perception of others who show kindness towards him. He exhibited discourteous behavior by consistently declining all of Louisa's offerings, with the intention of dissuading her from showing concern towards him. Furthermore, the aforementioned quote vividly illustrates the profound sense of despair experienced by William. He believed that there was no factor capable of improving his condition. The absence of even a modest offering of tea, coffee, or little concern from others is evident.

William seldom sought assistance from his helper, Louisa. He consistently displayed a sense of unease with the presence of Louisa in his daily activities. He used a confrontational manner of speech in order to discourage Louisa from approaching him. Nevertheless, Louisa consistently endeavored to establish a stronger rapport with William, despite his coarse demeanor and propensity to inflict harm upon her. It seems that each action she undertook was consistently deemed incorrect by William, who consistently responded with a cutting remark, leading her to relinquish her efforts. I am only attempting to express that a leisurely drive down the rural roads of Stortfold will not bring about a substantial improvement in the quality of my life, Miss Clark. [4]

The aforementioned quote illustrates William's lack of desire for an improved circumstance. Ordinary individuals often seek enjoyable pursuits as a kind of distraction from their concerns, although this is not the case with William. William has shown a reluctance to be outside after the occurrence of the disaster. The individual made the decision to remain in his room, opting not to seek solace elsewhere as a means of temporarily escaping his emotional distress. William consistently maintains the belief that engaging in outdoor activities does not yield any positive effects on his well-being. On the contrary, he perceives such activities as worsening his condition due to the constant exposure to others engaged in their daily routines, a stark reminder of his previous abilities that he has been unable to regain.

William consistently repelled Louisa by the use of his verbal expressions, like to a metaphorical blade that perpetually inflicts emotional harm upon her. Louisa made repeated attempts to engage in meaningful dialogue with William, endeavoring to identify mutually engaging topics for discussion. However, William always saw all of Louisa's actions as erroneous. William consistently conveyed his sense of despair by consistently asserting that Louisa's statements were devoid of value and failed to ameliorate his circumstances.

William made the deliberate decision to engage in social isolation due to his preference for solitude, as opposed to seeking companionship or a partner for companionship. The individual dedicated a significant portion of their time to engaging in solitary activities such as viewing films or listening to

music. The individual expressed a disinterest in engaging in collaborative work. He found solace in his solitude. Loneliness might potentially pose risks as individuals may seek solace inside themselves and exhibit a reluctance to engage with others.

During the afternoon, I would engage in the activity of watching films. Will, who had a subscription to a DVD club, often received new films by postal delivery on a daily basis. However, despite his access to a plethora of films, he never extended an invitation for me to join him in this leisurely pursuit. Consequently, I would typically retreat to either the kitchen or a spare room to occupy myself. The individual began the practice of bringing a book or magazine into their workspace, nevertheless, they had an unusual sense of guilt due to their lack of genuine job engagement. Consequently, they found it challenging to fully focus on the textual content [4].

The aforementioned dialogue attributed to Louisa illustrates William's decision to engage in activities that promote solitude, such as viewing films or listening to music, so isolating himself from others.

Louisa often experiences disappointment due to William's negative demeanor, leading her to believe that William has animosity towards her, since her actions are consistently deemed unfavorable in his perception. Louisa's talk with her sister Treena serves as a reflection of her thoughts and feelings.

In addition to Louisa, William had a desire to distance himself from all others in his social circle, including his friends and romantic partner. William had intense self-loathing subsequent to the accident, engaging in a deliberate attempt to disavow the objective truth of the situation. One individual within this group is Rupert, who held the position of William's closest associate within their professional environment, their relationship characterized by a profound level of intimacy prior to the occurrence of William's unfortunate incident. Rupert made many attempts to provide assistance to William via visits and motivational efforts, but William always rejected Rupert's involvement in his life. William had the belief that those who sought to establish stronger relationships with him subsequent to his quadriplegia were motivated only by feelings of pity. He had the belief that their intentions were not really inclined towards forming a friendship with him, but rather, they only displayed a superficial sense of compassion for him. Contrary to William's desires, such is unequivocally not the case. This is precisely why William exhibited a preference for solitude over the company of insincere others.

William ultimately concluded that suicide was the most viable option in light of his perception that his illness shown no signs of improvement. He finds it very difficult to endure a life that is not of his choosing, one that is consistently characterized by suffering, dependence on others, and the need

for assistance and support.

I ingested the substance, exhibiting a physical response by moving my head in a side-to-side motion. In a previous encounter, you conveyed to me that the nocturnal experience inside the labyrinth need not serve as the only determinant of my identity. According to your previous statement, you said that I had the ability to choose the factors that determine my identity. One is not obligated to allow the chair to determine one's identity.

**But it does define me, Clark. You don't know me, not really. You never saw me before this thing. I loved my life, Clark. Really loved it. I loved my job, my travels, the things I was. I loved being a physical person. I liked riding my motorbike, hurling myself off buildings. I liked crushing people in business deals. I liked having sex. A lot of sex. I led a big life. His voice has lifted now. "I am not design to exist in this thing – and yet for all intents and purposes it is now the thing that defines me. It is the only thing that defines me. [4]**

The dialogue between William and Louisa elucidated the underlying motivations for William's contemplation of suicide. He refused to embrace his predetermined fate of quadriplegia. If he were unable to regain the quality of life he had before he injury, it would be preferable for him to consider ending his life. Experiencing paralysis and being reliant on assistance for the fulfillment of personal desires is seen as undesirable by the individual. Once William becomes an individual who engages in regular physical activity, he has a life and occupation characterized by perfection. He had a strong affinity for the exhilarating pursuit that stimulated his adrenaline production. However, subsequent to the occurrence of the accident, he had a complete deprivation of all elements that contribute to his vitality and existence. I must conclude at this juncture, since there are no more chairs available. The occurrence of pneumonia has ceased. The cessation of the combustion of limbs. The cessation of physical discomfort, fatigue, and the desire to end each morning promptly upon awakening. According to [11].

In his address, William's declaration indicated his restraint in expressing his emotional response to his disability, while also highlighting the persistent physical pain he experiences on a daily basis. The experience of suffering significantly contributed to his fatigue and desire to surrender. Consistently, both throughout nocturnal and diurnal periods, he consistently ingested a substantial quantity of pharmaceuticals, medical interventions, and therapeutic measures; nonetheless, his medical state showed no signs of improvement. Despite undergoing several therapies over a span of two years, there was no discernible change in his condition. William is now experiencing many ailments that are impinging upon his well-being, leading him to express a strong desire to alleviate his discomfort.

In the novel *Me Before You*, it is evident that William Trayner experiences a significant loss following a motorcycle accident that renders him quadriplegic. Despite his decision to end his life, Trayner continues to grapple with the existential question of life's meaninglessness.

The story elucidated the distinction between the existential futility of being and the existential significance of existence, emphasizing that mortality does not determine this dichotomy. The examination of the two books elucidated that the lack of purpose in life manifests via the deleterious actions we inflict upon others in our vicinity, driven only by our base wants and futile aspirations that have no genuine significance in our existence.

#### 4. Conclusion

The author portrayed the concept of "meaninglessness of life" from her point of view in some different ways in her novel, but the result mirrors societal issues that happen every day in our lives. The concept of the "meaninglessness of life" holds a singular significance for the protagonist, serving as a catalyst for their desire to escape their current existence. This desire stems from various factors that they find unbearable in their lives. This theme is explored in the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*, where the protagonist, Hannah Baker, ultimately takes her own life due to the distress caused by experiencing rape and bullying from her peers. Similarly, in the novel *Me Before You*, the character William finds his life devoid of purpose after becoming quadriplegic, as his physical limitations prevent him from fulfilling his responsibilities and engaging in meaningful activities.

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