

ABSTRACT

An identity crisis is a social phenomenon that can occur at any time to individuals in society. Therefore, this study discusses the *Protagonist's Identity Crisis in Paul Kalanithi's novel When Breath Becomes Air*. The purpose of this research is to identify and explain the types of identity crisis faced by the protagonist in Paul Kalanithi's novel *When Breath Becomes Air*. The researcher uses the identity crisis theory proposed by Erik Erikson (1993) and Baumeister, et.al (1985). The researcher used a descriptive qualitative analysis as a method to describe and analyze the novel. The following are the results of this research: 1) The discussion of the motivation crisis Paul faced is explained in three sub-chapters, namely the causes, subjective experience, and behavior. 2) The cause of the motivation crisis experienced by Paul Kalanithi is the result of his illness, namely liver cancer. 3) Paul experienced a series of subjective experiences, namely a). vacillating commitment and confusion about the value, b). regulars of vagueness, c). emptiness and self-unconsciousness, and d). anxiety. 4) Several behaviors that appear from Paul, i.e, a). comparing the activities he did when he was a doctor and a patient, b). looking at the world from two perspectives, namely hope and death, and c). feeling hopeless because his dreams, hard work and life choices are shattered.