

ABSTRACT

The study examines woman's search for freedom and existence in a marital relationship in novel written by Paulo Coelho *The Zahir*. The story is about the narrator of *The Zahir*, the husband, the unnamed character, a famous author who lived in France and enjoyed all the privileges of his money and celebrity status. The husband's wife, Esther, suddenly disappeared along with her friend, Mikhail. Esther is portrayed as modern, smart, rich and had a good job. The disappeared of Esther left her husband many questions. The study examines the factors that influenced Esther to leave her marital relationship and the way Esther interpreted the meaning of her freedom and existence. The study uses Simone de Beauvoir's theory as she wrote in her influential book *The Second Sex*, especially her theory about married woman and independent woman. By applying existentialist feminism theory, the study shows that Esther left her marital relationship because of marginalization, subordination, stereotype and mental violence. Esther decided to be an independent woman and finally found the meaning of her freedom and existence. For Esther, humanity, responsibility, solidarity and independency are the most important factors in her life.

Keywords: Existentialist Feminism, Freedom, Existence, Humanity

There are only two ways to live your life
One is as though nothing is a miracle
The other is as though everything is a miracle
(Albert Einstein)

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION