

Unraveling the Human Struggle: Eveline and Hamlet through Sartre's Existentialist Lens

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Abstract

This research article delves into the profound existential dilemmas encountered by Eveline in James Joyce's "Eveline" and Prince Hamlet in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* through the application of Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist framework. Eveline, the protagonist faces the haunting choice between her familiar life and a new and uncertain future with her lover, while Hamlet tackles with the moral complexities of seeking revenge for his father's murder. By drawing upon Sartre's concept of existential choice and the notion of authentic existence, this study aims to analyze the inner conflicts and quest for meaning experienced by these complex literary characters. Thus, this study digs into the intricate themes of personal freedom, responsibility, authenticity, and the quest for meaning. By unraveling the universal human struggle depicted in these characters' decisions, this article offers an evocative exploration of self-discovery and the profound impact of existential choices on the path to an authentic existence. Through a comparative analysis, this article examines the ways in which Eveline and Hamlet struggle with their existential dilemmas and navigate the intricate web of personal freedom and responsibility.

Keywords: *self-discovery, existential dilemmas, personal freedom, authenticity, literary exploration.*

Introduction

Literature has always been a powerful source of exploring the complexities of human life and dealing with existential questions. William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and James Joyce's "Eveline" are two renowned literary works which explore the insightful existential dilemmas through their protagonists. Literary characters, Eveline and Prince Hamlet encounter precarious situations in their lives where they have to make decisions with significant consequences, influencing their identities and the quest of meaning. To discover the existential issues in these works, this research

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article applies the existentialist framework of Jean-Paul Sartre. A well-known 20th-century French philosopher, Sartre, is recognized for his ideas highlighting individual freedom, obligation, and the subjective nature of human existence. “Existential choice” and “Authentic existence” (Sartre, 1946) are his fundamental concepts. Sartre's philosophy emphasizes the individual's ability to make choices and the profound responsibility that accompanies those decisions. By applying this framework, we can gain awareness into Eveline and Hamlet's inner conflicts, their search for authenticity, and the complexities they encounter in navigating personal freedom and responsibility.

Methodology

The research methodology employed in the above research article is primarily a comparative literary analysis through the application of Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist framework. The study focuses on analyzing the existential dilemmas encountered by the protagonists Eveline from James Joyce's “Eveline” and Prince Hamlet from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The researcher utilizes Sartre's concepts of existential choice and authentic existence to delve into the inner conflicts, quest for meaning, personal freedom, and responsibility experienced by these characters. The methodology involves a close examination of the textual content, particularly the characters' thoughts, actions, and dialogues, to extract themes related to existentialism. By drawing parallels and contrasts between Eveline and Hamlet, the study aims to explore how they navigate their complex situations within the context of existential philosophy. The analysis serves to offer insights into the characters' decision-making processes, the impact of their choices on their paths to authenticity, and the broader human struggle depicted in their stories.

I. The Existential Dilemmas of Eveline and Hamlet

A. Eveline's Dilemma: Choosing between her familiar life and a new unknown life

In “Eveline,” the protagonist finds herself in a profound existential dilemma, torn between the familiarity and security of her current life and the allure of a new and uncertain future; with a choice between whether to stay in Dublin with her family or leave with her boyfriend for a new life in Buenos Aires. The narrator describes Eveline's contemplation of leaving her home, illustrating her inner conflicts and the weight of her decision. Eveline copes with the fear of the unknown and the responsibilities she carries towards her family and societal expectations: “What would they say of her in the stores when they found out that she had run away

with a fellow? Say she was a fool, perhaps; and her place would be filled by advertisement” (Joyce, 2021, p.79). This inner turmoil reflects the tension between personal freedom and familial obligations.

Additionally, Eveline’s existential dilemma is complexly entangled with her desire for personal fulfillment and happiness. As she anticipates the opportunity of a new life with her boyfriend, Frank, she deeply craves for a sense of agency and authenticity in her choices. The protagonist's desire for personal fulfillment is portrayed when Eveline thinks about a new life with her lover: “Frank would save her. He would give her life, perhaps love, too” (Joyce, 2021, p. 81). She questions why she should be unhappy and believes she has the right to happiness, prompting her to consider the potential transformation her choice could bring to her existence.

Throughout the narrative, Eveline’s existential conflict is deeply rooted in the choices confronting her. By drawing upon Sartre's existentialist framework, we can get a profound understanding of the complexities of personal freedom and responsibility in her decision-making process. Eveline’s existential dilemma embodies the central tenet of existentialism, where individuals are condemned to be free and must confront the responsibility that comes with making choices.

As Eveline contemplates her options, her quest for authentic existence is evident. She longs to break free from the constraints of her current life and pursue a path that aligns with her personal aspirations. The promise of a new start in a new country seems like the best way to shake off the musty old air of Ireland: “She was about to explore another life with Frank. Frank was very kind, manly, open-hearted. She was to go away with him by the night-boat to be his wife and to live with him in Buenos Aires where he had a home waiting for her (Joyce, 2021, p.80). However, her sense of duty towards her family and the fear of the unknown create a profound existential crisis: “She had hard work to keep the house together and to see that the two young children who had been left to her charge went to school regularly and got their meals regularly (Joyce, 2021, p.80). By examining Eveline’s journey through Sartre’s existentialist lens, we gain insights into the universal human struggle for authenticity in the face of life-altering decisions.

B. Hamlet’s Dilemma: Balancing duty, morality, and personal desires

In *Hamlet*, Prince Hamlet, the protagonist faces a profound dilemma of seeking revenge for his father’s murder or not. His famous monologue, “To be, or not to be: that is the question” (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1, line 64), symbolizes his central chaos and contemplation of the consequences of his actions. Through

this soliloquy, his profound existential crisis comes to the forefront as he struggles with the decision that will shape the course of his life. Hamlet wonders about the very essence of existence and the moral implications of seeking revenge. Similarly, Hamlet's dilemma is also about balancing his duty to his father with his own feelings and desires. He fights with the duty to avenge his father's death and sustain justice, while also challenging his own emotional scuffles and the toll that revenge might take on his own soul. The interaction between his obligations and his individual longings adds another level of difficulty to his existential journey.

In another soliloquy, he reflects, "Thus conscience does make cowards of us all" (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1, line 83). Here, he contemplates the moral burden of taking a life, even in the pursuit of avenging his father. Thus, Hamlet's existential struggle revolves around the tension between fulfilling his duty to honor his father's memory and following his personal desires for justice and self-fulfillment.

Hamlet's contemplative nature is further depicted in his skepticism towards appearances and his yearning for authenticity. He remarks, "Seems, madam? Nay, it is; I know not 'seems'" (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 1, Scene 2, line 76). Hamlet seeks the truth beneath the surface and longs for a genuine and authentic existence. His existential dilemma arises from his desire for honesty and transparency in a world filled with deceit and hidden motives.

When we examine Hamlet's existential dilemmas through Sartre's existential outline, we come to realize how the complications of personal freedom and responsibility shape his decisions. Hamlet's internal conflicts reflect the universal human struggle of balancing duty, morality, and personal desires when confronting life-altering choices. Through his introspection and contemplation, Hamlet exemplifies the existential burden of responsibility and the profound impact of existential choices on one's quest for authenticity and meaningful existence.

II. Sartre's Concept of Existential Choice

Existential Choice:

For Sartre, existential choice refers to the idea that human beings are fundamentally free to create their essence or identity through the choices they make. Unlike objects in the world that have fixed natures and predefined purposes, humans lack any predetermined essence. This absence of an inherent nature is what Sartre famously described as "existence precedes essence."

(Sartre, 1946, p. 24), which means there is no fixed way a man will behave and respond to his surroundings. Sartre illustrates his concept adding, "What do we

mean by saying that existence precedes essence? We mean that man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world – and defines himself afterwards” (Sartre, 1946, p. 24).

However, this freedom of choice can also be a source of anxiety and anguish, as it implies the responsibility for our actions and the consequences they bring. Sartre famously said, “Man is condemned to be free (Sartre, 1946, p.25).” This means that while we may not choose the circumstances we are born into, we have the freedom to choose how we respond to them and what we make of our lives.

Hence, Sartre’s notion of existential choice emphasizes that humans are free to construct their essence through their choices, while the concept of authentic existence reassures persons to hold this freedom and take responsibility for their lives by living true to themselves. By doing so, one can achieve a sense of purpose, self-awareness, and satisfaction in their existence.

A. Analysis of existential choice and its significance in Eveline’s and Hamlet’s decisions

Jean Paul Sartre’s existentialist philosophy highlights the importance of individual freedom and the obligation of making authentic choices that define one’s existence. This theme strongly echoes in “Eveline” and *Hamlet*, as their protagonists confront crucial decisions that profoundly impact their lives. Examining their existential dilemmas offers us valuable insights into the complexities of personal freedom and the moral responsibility entwined in making life-altering choices.

In “Eveline,” the protagonist finds herself torn between two contrasting paths. Eveline’s existential choice lies in deciding between the familiarity of her current life, marked by family duties and societal expectations, and the allure of a new, unknown life with her lover, Frank. Joyce describes Eveline’s dilemma when he writes, “She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question” (Joyce, 2021, p. 79). Eveline’s choice carries profound existential significance as she struggles with her desire for joyfulness and personal gratification while also facing the horror of the unknown future and the responsibilities she holds towards her family.

In the same way, in Shakespeare’s play, Hamlet faces a big existential predicament. He searches for truth, meaning, and authenticity while dealing with challenges. His soliloquy, “To be, or not to be” (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1, line 64) shows how he contemplates about life and the choices he must choose. As the prince of Denmark, he finds it tough to balance his accountability to revenge his father’s

death with his own feelings and moral beliefs.

Additionally, Sartre's philosophy underlines that persons are demarcated by the choices they make and that these choices form their authentic existence. Eveline's existential choice emerges from her desire for personal freedom and a life with Frank. She reflects on the possibilities that a new life could offer her and contemplates: "But she wanted to live. Why should she be unhappy? She had a right to happiness. Frank would take her in his arms, fold her in his arms. He would save her" (Joyce, 2021, p. 81). This shows Eveline's yearning for a genuine and fulfilling life, free from the constraints of her current circumstances but at the same time, her existential choice highlights the struggle between her personal happiness and her responsibility towards her aging father and younger brothers. The line, "Her father was becoming old lately, and her brothers were all in business" (Joyce, 2021, 81), reveals the weight of familial obligation on Eveline's decision-making process. This illustrates the significance of her existential choice, as it involves not just her individual desires but also the potential impact on her family. The line, "She sat at the window watching the evening invade the avenue" (Joyce, 2021), further emphasizes the oppressive nature of her familiar life, reinforcing the need for change and a new beginning. Eveline's fear of the unknown is depicted when she envisions the vast seas as a symbol of uncertainty and potential danger, revealing the existential anxiety she experiences as she contemplates leaving her homeland. "She felt her cheek pale and cold and out of a maze of distress, she prayed to God to direct her, to show her what was her duty" (Joyce, 2021, 82). By analyzing these examples, we understand that Eveline's existential choice revolves around finding a balance between personal fulfillment and the responsibilities she feels towards her family and society.

In the same way, In *Hamlet*, the Protagonist faces an existential choice that involves the pursuit of truth and the question of mortality. The soliloquy, "For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give us pause" (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1), shows Hamlet's contemplation of the uncertainty of life and the choices he must make in the face of mortality. This reflects the existential theme of coping with the purpose and meaning of existence. Additionally, Hamlet's moral quandary is evident when he contemplates avenging his father's death. The line, "Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift As meditation or the thoughts of love, May sweep to my revenge" (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 1, Scene 5), portrays the burden of decision-making and the complexities of personal responsibility within an existential context. Hamlet's existential curiosity

is highlighted when he discusses the limits of human knowledge: “There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy” (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 1, Scene 5). This line reflects his quest for understanding the deeper truths and realities of life. Hamlet’s existential choices are knotted with his search for truth and the authenticity of appearances. He questions the honesty and integrity of those around him. “I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw.” (Act 2, Scene 2, line 376). Here, in this quote, Hamlet shows his self-awareness about his mental state. He admits that he might appear mad or unpredictable, yet he confidently asserts his capacity to recognize the truth and see beyond appearances when the need arises. The reference to knowing “a hawk from a handsaw” emphasizes his desire for authenticity and the capacity to differentiate between real threats and deceptive facades. Through these examples, we can see that Hamlet’s existential choice revolves around the search for meaning, grappling with morality, and confronting the uncertainties of existence.

Sartre’s concept of existential choice emphasizes that individuals define themselves through their decisions and actions. Both Eveline and Hamlet exemplify this concept, as they confront their respective dilemmas and make choices that shape their journeys. As we know, Eveline’s decision to embark on a new life with Frank reflects Sartre’s notion of individuals taking responsibility for their own existence. She recognizes the importance of breaking free from the constraints of her familiar life, and embracing her longing for happiness and fulfillment.

In the same way, Hamlet’s existential choice to seek the truth and to fulfill his father’s spiritual appeal for revenge reflects his duty to act in accordance with his authentic self. Both characters embody Sartre’s assertion that “Man is condemned to be free; because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does” (Sartre, 1946, p. 27). Eveline and Hamlet’s existential choices are significant not only for their individual journeys but also for the universal theme of personal freedom, responsibility, and the quest for authentic existence.

In conclusion, the existential choices made by Eveline and Hamlet exemplify Sartre’s philosophy on personal freedom and responsibility. Eveline’s decision revolves around finding a balance between personal desires and familial obligations, while Hamlet’s existential choice centers on the pursuit of truth, moral dilemmas, and the uncertainties of existence. Both characters embody Sartre’s idea that individuals define themselves through their choices and actions. The significance of their existential choices lies in the transformative impact these decisions have on

their lives and their perceptions of authentic existence. Through the exploration of Eveline and Hamlet's dilemmas, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of existential choices and their power to shape one's journey and understanding of self.

B. The implications of existential choice on personal freedom and responsibility

Sartre's concept of existential choice has profound implications on personal freedom and responsibility for both Eveline and Hamlet. As per Sartre's philosophy, individuals are condemned to be free, which means that they are responsible for their actions and decisions (Sartre, 1946, p. 27). This existential freedom is evident in Eveline's and Hamlet's dilemmas, where they must confront the responsibility of making choices that will shape their lives.

In "Eveline," Eveline's existential choice to leave her familiar life and pursue a new, unknown life with Frank represents an assertion of her personal freedom. She realizes that she has the power to break free from the oppressive routine and societal expectations. Sartre argues that this freedom can be overwhelming and anxiety-inducing, as individuals bear the weight of responsibility for their choices (Sartre, 1946, p. 29). Eveline's fear of the unknown and the potential consequences of her decision mirror this existential anxiety. The line "All the seas of the world tumbled about her heart. He was drawing her into them: he would drown her" (Joyce, 2021, 82), signifies the immense weight she feels in making a choice that will alter the course of her existence. The exact nature of Frank remains unknown and confusing to the reader though. "Whether Frank is a dishonest seducer or an honest lover cannot be determined..." (Joyce, 2021) her pathetic condition is clearly mentioned in these lines by Sarker in his article: "She is hunted by her father 'with his black thorn stick', but her escape route, represented by the 'black mass of the boat', is equally frightening. The threat that reduces her to a hunted animal, and which she is trying to escape, reappears at the moment of her escape in the form of means of rescue, namely the boat, before which she returns to the condition of a frightened animal." (Sarker, 2017, p.152). She is always intimidated and in dilemma about the decisions to make.

Similarly, in *Hamlet*, the protagonist existential choice to seek the truth and avenge his father's death reflects his exercise of personal freedom. Sartre suggests that individuals are not only free to make choices but also responsible for the outcomes of those choices (Sartre, 1946, p. 29). Hamlet's soliloquy, "For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give

us pause” (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1), displays his contemplation of the consequences of his decisions. “The complex nature of human drives individuals to choose between right or wrong, often causing conflicts between personal desires and moral decisions. William Shakespeare explores this concept through his tragedy Hamlet, in order to explore the timelessly relevant themes, ideas and values in this play” (Human nature, pg.2). He struggles with the moral implications of seeking revenge and the potential repercussions of his actions.

Moreover, Sartre emphasizes that personal freedom comes with a responsibility to create meaning and authenticity in one’s life (Sartre, 1946, p. 29). Eveline’s existential choice to pursue a new life with Frank requires her to take responsibility for her happiness and to embrace the uncertainty of the future. The line, “She trembled as she heard again her mother’s voice....she stood up in a sudden impulse of terror. Escape! She must escape! Frank would save her. He would give her life. She had a right to happiness” (Joyce, 2021, p.81), underscores her recognition of this responsibility. Hamlet’s existential choice to uncover the truth and take action aligns with Sartre’s notion that individuals must act authentically and in accordance with their true selves. The line, “Thus conscience does make cowards of us all” (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1), illustrates his inner conflict between fulfilling his duty and pursuing his personal desires.

Conclusively, Sartre’s concept of existential choice is reflected in Eveline’s and Hamlet’s decisions, highlighting the significance of personal freedom and responsibility. Both characters confront the weight of their choices, understanding that they must take responsibility for the outcomes. Eveline’s liberation from her familiar life and Hamlet’s pursuit of truth and revenge exemplify the exercise of existential freedom. Sartre’s philosophical theory underscores the importance of authenticity and the creation of meaning in one’s life. Through the analysis of Eveline and Hamlet’s dilemmas alongside Sartre’s ideas, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of personal freedom and the ethical implications of existential choices.

III. Authentic Existence and the Search for Meaning

Authentic Existence:

Sartre believed in “authentic existence,” where individuals live true to themselves, embrace their freedom, and take responsibility for their choices while “Inauthentic existence” is living in bad faith, denying freedom and letting others dictate decisions. Sartre saw living authentically as the path to a meaningful life despite

societal pressures. He states it as the only way to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life as it is a path of self-discovery and true freedom.

A. Eveline's quest for authentic existence amidst societal expectations and obligations

Eveline's quest for authentic existence is profoundly shaped by the societal expectations and obligations that surround her. As Sartre emphasized in his philosophical work, existentialism highlights the individual's freedom to choose and create their own meaning in life (Sartre, 1946). This theme echoes in Eveline's struggle to navigate the boundaries of her conventional Irish upbringing and the craving for a life of her own.

Throughout the story, Eveline's sense of duty and obligation towards her family weighs heavily on her existential choices. The text describes how she had taken on the role of the caretaker for her aging father and the responsibility of looking after her younger siblings since her mother's death. This burden of responsibility creates a tension within Eveline's consciousness, as she grapples with her desire to escape her oppressive home life and embark on a new adventure with her lover, Frank: "Now she was going to go away like the others, to leave her home" (Joyce, 2021, 78). Sartre explains: "It is we ourselves, who decide who we are to be" (Sartre, 1946, p.34). Each individual is left alone to decide how to perform: no matter how many complexities and responsibilities may push you to act in a certain way. Eveline's struggle encapsulates this existential burden, as she realizes that whichever decision she makes will shape her destiny.

Furthermore, societal expectations play a significant role in Eveline's existential predicament. The story is set in early 20th-century Ireland, where traditional gender roles and cultural norms heavily influence the lives of individuals. Eveline is conditioned to prioritize family duty and social conformity over her own desires and aspirations. This cultural context restricts her from embracing personal freedom and carving out an authentic existence for herself.

"Her time was running out...she knew the air. Strange that it should come that very night to remind her of the promise to her mother, her promise to keep the home together as long as she could... she remembered her father strutting back into the sickroom saying..." (Joyce, 2021, 81). Sartre emphasizes that existential freedom is not the absence of constraints but the recognition of one's ability to choose in the face of those constraints (Sartre, 1946). Eveline's struggle exemplifies this, as she faces the confines of societal norms but is ultimately responsible for her decision to stay or leave.

Throughout the narrative, Eveline's contemplative thoughts and introspection further underscore the existential theme of seeking meaning and authenticity. She is unable to decide between the familiarity of her current life with unfulfilling, and the uncertainty of a new life. Eveline's yearning for happiness and a sense of purpose reflects the human quest for meaning in the face of existential dilemmas, "But she wanted to live" (Joyce, 2021, 81). Sartre argues that individuals are "condemned to freedom" and must embrace this freedom by taking responsibility for their choices, which ultimately defines who they are (Sartre, 1946). Eveline's internal struggle epitomizes this notion, as her decision will determine her authentic existence.

Thus, Eveline's quest for authentic existence is intricately woven into the societal expectations and obligations she faces. Her struggle to reconcile personal desires with family duties mirrors the core principles of Sartre's existentialism. Through Eveline's internal conflict and decision-making process, James Joyce masterfully explores the complexities of personal freedom, responsibility, and the search for meaning within the confines of societal constraints. Sartre's existentialist ideas enrich the narrative by providing a philosophical lens through which we can understand Eveline's existential journey and the universal human struggle to find authenticity in a world defined by choices and consequences.

B. Hamlet's pursuit of authenticity and the search for meaning in life

In *Hamlet*, the hero embarks on a profound journey for seeking authenticity and meaning in life. Hamlet's existential journey is characterized by introspection, doubt, and an unyielding hunt for truth. Sartre's concept of existential choice and the individual's responsibility for shaping their own existence align with Hamlet's philosophical exploration throughout the play.

Hamlet's pursuit of authenticity is apparent in his contemplative nature and his endless inquiring of the world around him. Hamlet constantly fights with his philosophical view of the world and people. He continuously tries to discover explanations for his actions, but his lack of action makes him dislike himself. He expresses his frustration: "How all occasions do inform against me, And spur my dull revenge! What is a man If his chief good and market of his time

Be but to sleep and feed? A beast no more" (Shakespeare, 1603, Act.4, Scene 4, p. 32-35).

After meeting the ghost of his father and knowing about the situations of his death, Hamlet becomes obsessed by the existential dilemma of seeking revenge. Hamlet's mental tranquility gets traumatized when he for the first time comes to know from

the ghost about his father's death and his mother's hasty marriage to his uncle Claudius; he refuses to accept the marriage as natural. Hamlet utters in disgust and horror:

That it should come to this!

But two months dead – nay not so much, not two— So excellent a king, that was to this

Hyperion to a satyr.... (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 1, Scene, p.137-40)

He struggles with the moral consequences of taking another person's life and the uncertainty of what comes after death. Hamlet's soliloquies are a window into his philosophical mind, where he contemplates the essence of existence and the meaning of life itself, "For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give us pause." (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 3, Scene 1).

Sartre argues that individuals are defined by their actions and the choices they make in life (Sartre, 1946). Similarly, Hamlet is confronted with critical choices throughout the play, such as whether to trust the ghost's message and seek revenge or to refrain from violence. He faces the burden of deciding how to reconcile his filial duty to avenge his father with his own moral values and desires for a meaningful life. This internal struggle reflects the essence of existential choice, where one's decisions shape their authentic existence.

Moreover, Hamlet's search for meaning ranges beyond the quest for revenge. He delves into profound existential questions about the nature of truth, the authenticity of appearances, and the complexities of human nature. For instance, when Hamlet encounters the players who perform a play within the play, he becomes fixated on the idea of using theater as a means to reveal the truth. This desire to uncover reality and find genuine meaning in life is a manifestation of his existential curiosity "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy." (Shakespeare, 1603, Act 1, Scene 5). Hamlet's relentless pursuit of authenticity often leads him to confront the hypocrisy and deceit within the royal court. He questions the genuineness of human intentions and the facade people put on to hide their true selves. This skepticism aligns with Sartre's notion of authenticity, which involves being true to oneself and rejecting the inauthenticity that society may impose (Sartre, 1946).

To sum up, Hamlet's pursuit of authenticity and the search for meaning in life drive the philosophical undertones of Shakespeare's iconic play. Through Hamlet's

introspection, existential dilemmas, and unyielding quest for truth, the play delves into profound questions about the human condition. Sartre's concept of existential choice and individual responsibility resonate with Hamlet's journey, as he faces crucial decisions that determine the course of his life and the authenticity of his existence.

Conclusion

By analyzing two literary characters, Eveline and Hamlet, through Sartre's existentialist framework, this research article provides valuable insights into the universal human struggle for authentic existence. Eveline and Hamlet's inner conflicts and quest for meaning highlight the complexities of personal freedom, societal expectations, and the pursuit of a meaningful and authentic life. Their journeys prompt us to reflect on our own lives and the existential dilemmas we encounter. By understanding and acknowledging the significance of existential choice and the quest for authentic existence, we gain a deeper appreciation for the essence of human existence and the complexities of the human condition. The study of Eveline and Hamlet's struggles through Sartre's existentialist lens not only enhances our knowledge of these literary characters but also appeals us to contemplate our own lives and the choices we make.

One of the key message from this research article is the realization that existential choice is an inherent aspect of being human. We are constantly faced with decisions that shape our identities, relationships, and life trajectories. Just like Eveline and Hamlet, we deal with the tension between personal desires, societal expectations, and moral considerations. By delving into their existential dilemmas, we recognize the universality of the human struggle to reconcile freedom and responsibility. Moreover, this examination prompts us to reflect on the nature of authentic existence. Eveline's longing for happiness and personal fulfillment and Hamlet's quest for truth and meaning resonate with our own hungers for purpose and authenticity in life. Sartre's philosophy encourages us to acknowledge our agency and take responsibility for the choices we make, leading us towards a more genuine and fulfilling existence.

Additionally, understanding the significance of existential choice and authentic existence fosters empathy and compassion towards others. Literature serves as a mirror that reflects the diverse range of human experiences, allowing us to connect with characters like Eveline and Hamlet who navigate their existential dilemmas. By appreciating their struggles, we cultivate a deeper understanding of the complexities

of human emotions and motivations, encouraging empathy and open-mindedness in our interactions with others.

In conclusion, exploring the existential dilemmas of Eveline and Hamlet through Sartre's existentialist framework enriches our comprehension of the human condition. It reminds us that the quest for authentic existence and the exercise of existential choice are central to our existence as human beings. As we contemplate the complexities of these literary characters' journeys, we gain insights into our own lives and the choices we encounter. Through literature, we are invited to reflect on the essence of human existence, fostering empathy, and expanding our appreciation for the complexities of the human experience.

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