

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of bearing up with the calamity of life in the novel *The Great Believers* (2018) by Rebecca Makkai. The issue of bearing up with the calamity of life refers to the efforts of the characters in facing life problems. The effort done by the characters are having a decent education, getting immersed with the community and participating in community activities. This analysis is related to life instinct theory proposed by Sigmund Freud. The use of the theory is based on the interpretation of the text and context of the novel. This analysis also depends a lot on fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict) and setting to reveal the meanings. The result of the study reveals that the characters can have some pleasure in order to survive life.

Key words: *calamity, bearing up, life instinct*