

**UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS IN UNITED STATES: INSIGHTS FROM THE *HOMELESS TO HARVARD'S* FILM**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

Submitted as a Partial fulfillment of Requirements to Achieve *Sarjana Sastra*  
Degree English Literature Department



**By**

**Ai Haidar Syahmanan**

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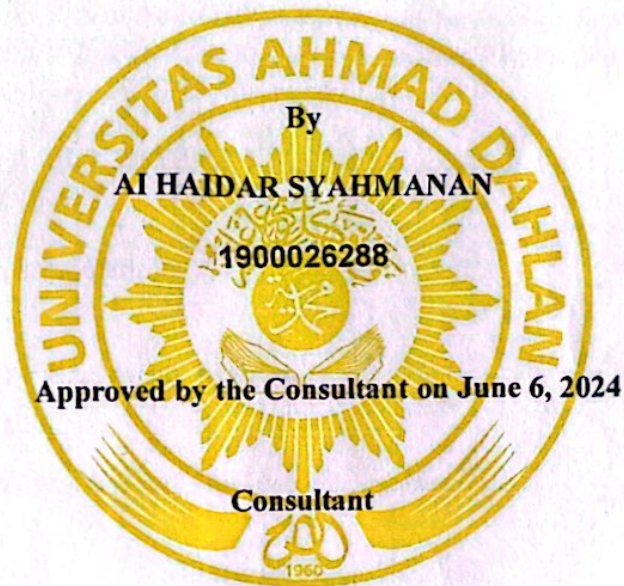
**FACULTY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND  
COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITAS AHMAD DAHLAN  
2024**

**APPROVAL PAGE**

**AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

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**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to achieve *Sarjana Sastra* Degree in English Literature Department Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication Universitas Ahmad Dahlan**



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**RATIFICATION PAGE**

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**An Undergraduate Thesis**

**By**

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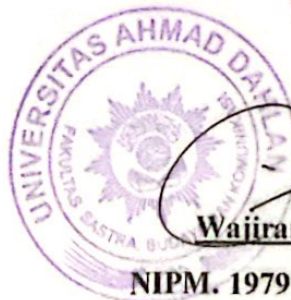
**This Undergraduate Thesis has been examined on June 20, 2024 and has been accepted as one of the requirements to obtain *Sarjana Sastra* Degree in English Literature Department Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication Universitas Ahmad Dahlan Yogyakarta**

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Herewith, I state that all these statements, opinions, analysis, that I have written in this undergraduate thesis entitled UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES: INSIGHT FROM THE *HOMELESS TO HARVARD'S* FILM are my original work. During the process, I optimally conducted my own research with the help of some references and suggestions. Every word and statement taken from these references are treated as quotation and experts in which the name of the author and publisher are stated. If any claim related to this analysis that I made persist in the future, I would be fully responsible for my clarification.

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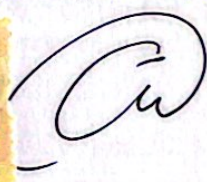
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Lampiran I

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Lampiran 2

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Dengan ini menyerahkan hak *Sepenuhnya* kepada Pusat Sumber Belajar Universitas Ahmad Dahlan untuk menyimpan, mengatur aksesserta melakukan pengelolaan terhadap karya saya ini dengan mengacu pada ketentuan akses tugas akhir elektronik sebagai berikut (beri tanda pada kotak):

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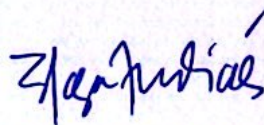
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Mengetahui, Pembimbing



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All praises are due to Allah SWT, the Most Beneficent, and Most Gracious. The researcher testifies there is no God but Allah, and testifies that Muhammad SAW is His messenger. Without His power and help, the researcher is not able to accomplish this undergraduate thesis.

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In accomplishing this thesis, the researcher is grateful to many people who have helped him. Therefore, he would like to say his great thanks to:

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4. Dr. Ajar Pradika Ananta Tur, S.S., M.A., as the Vice Dean of Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan.
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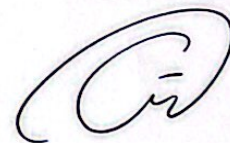
administration affairs and all librarians who helped him in looking for the references.

8. His friends of English Literature Department class of 2019.
9. All of his friends in Universitas Ahmad Dahlan.

Therefore, any suggestions to make this thesis better are welcomed. The researcher hopes that this research will give contribution to develop English studies and can be continued in the future.

Yogyakarta, 20 Juni, 2024

The researcher

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by 'i' and 'H' in a cursive script.

Ai Haidar Syahmanan

## **MOTTO**

“Nobody cares about you until you are successful”

## **DEDICATION**

Praise be to Allah SWT, who has given me the strength and grace to reach this point. May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

I dedicate this to my beloved parents, Mrs. Sopiya and Mr. Patah, who are always there for me, providing support in every way. Mak, Pak, you are my source of strength and inspiration. Thank you for your endless love, prayers, and sacrifices. Thank you for giving me the freedom to choose and live my life. I am very grateful to have you in my life. Forgive me if I have not been able to give you the best. I love you more than words can express.

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## INTISARI

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan orang menjadi tunawisma di Amerika Serikat berdasarkan analisis film "Homeless to Harvard". Selain itu, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi motivasi utama karakter untuk mengatasi faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan tunawisma, seperti yang digambarkan dalam film tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif karena memungkinkan peneliti untuk mendalami faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan tunawisma. Pendekatan kualitatif ini cocok karena memungkinkan peneliti untuk menjelajahi faktor-faktor penyebab tunawisma di Amerika Serikat. Metode pengumpulan data yang digunakan adalah observasi, dengan menonton film, mencatat informasi yang relevan, dan menyimpan bukti-bukti dalam bentuk tangkapan layar. Selain itu, peneliti juga melakukan pencarian literatur yang relevan untuk mendukung analisis masalah. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini menggunakan 2 teori yaitu, teori Sosiologi dan teori tiga kebutuhan (David McClelland's). Teori Sosiologi digunakan untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor penyebab Tunawisma dan teori tiga kebutuhan (David McClelland's) digunakan untuk mengetahui motivasi karakter utama untuk mengatasi tunawisma. Data untuk penelitian ini terdiri dari dua jenis: data primer dan data sekunder. Data primer diperoleh dari film "Homeless to Harvard" yang dirilis pada 7 April 2003, yang menjadi sumber utama untuk memahami fenomena tunawisma. Sedangkan data sekunder diperoleh dari berbagai sumber seperti buku, jurnal, dan artikel yang mendukung analisis masalah utama.

Penjelasan secara singkat dari hasil penelitian ini adalah sebagai berikut. Terdapat 4 faktor yang menyebabkan tunawisma yang ada di film tersebut. Adapun faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan tunawisma adalah Kecanduan narkoba, masalah ekonomi, masalah Kesehatan dan Kekerasan rumah tangga. Sementara Aspek yang memotivasi pemeran utama dalam film ini menunjukkan dorongan yang kuat untuk mencapai kesuksesan melalui kebutuhan akan prestasi, kebutuhan akan afiliasi, dan kebutuhan akan kekuasaan. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini memberikan wawasan yang berharga tentang kompleksitas masalah tunawisma di Amerika Serikat dan menyoroti pentingnya upaya kolaboratif dalam menangani masalah ini

Keywords : Tunawisma, Amerika Serikat, Masalah sosial



## ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the factors that cause people to become homeless in the United States based on the analysis of the film "Homeless to Harvard". In addition, this study also aims to identify the motivation of the main character to overcome the factors that cause homelessness, as depicted in the film.

This study uses a qualitative approach because it allows researchers to explore the factors that cause homelessness. This qualitative approach is suitable because it allows researchers to explore the factors that cause homelessness in the United States. The data collection method used is observation, by watching films, recording relevant information, and storing evidence in the form of screen images. In addition, researchers also conducted a search for relevant literature to support the analysis of the problem. The theory used in this study uses 2 theories, namely, Sociology theory and the theory of three needs (David McClelland's). Sociology theory is used to determine the factors that cause homelessness and the theory of three needs (David McClelland) is used to determine the motivation of the main character to overcome homelessness. The data for this study consists of two types: primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained from the film "Homeless to Harvard" released on April 7, 2003, which is the main source for understanding the phenomenon of homelessness. While secondary data was obtained from various sources such as books, journals, and articles that support the analysis of the main problem.

A brief explanation of the results of this study are as follows. There are 4 factors that cause homelessness in the film. The factors that cause homelessness are poverty, drugs, economic problems, health problems and domestic violence. While the aspects that motivate the main characters in this film show a strong drive to achieve success through the need for achievement, the need for affiliation, and the need for power. Thus, this study provides valuable insight into the complexity of the homeless problem in the United States and highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing this problem.

Keywords: Homelessness, United States, Social Issues