

**GENDER INEQUALITY REPRESENTATION AS SEEN**

**IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S SONG *THE MAN***

**Undergraduate Thesis**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements**

**to Obtain *Sarjana Sastra* Degree English**

**Literature Department**



**By**

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**APPROVAL PAGE**

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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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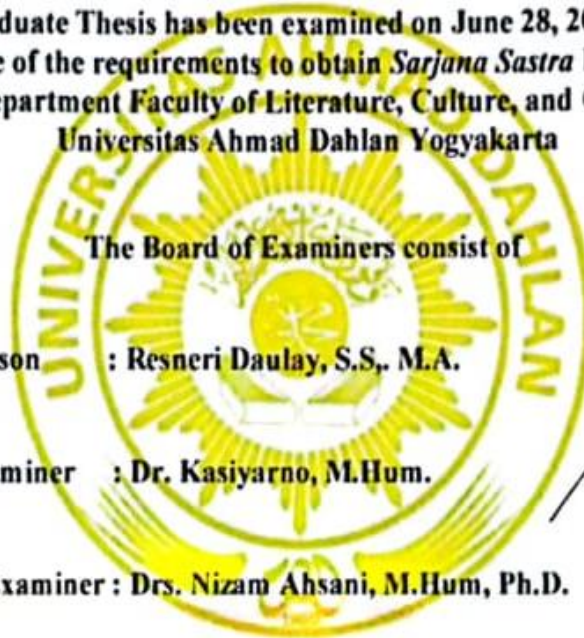
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SWIFT'S SONG THE MAN***  
**An Undergraduate Thesis**

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Furthermore, the researcher welcomes any recommendations and feedback. The researcher sincerely hopes this work will be valuable and beneficial for future endeavors.

Yogyakarta, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

The Researcher,

Safa Ratu Felissha Renatya

## **MOTTO**

*Maka sesungguhnya bersama kesulitan ada kemudahan. Sesungguhnya bersama  
kesulitan ada kemudahan.*

*(Quran, 94:5-6)*

*Long story short, I survived.*

*(Taylor Swift)*

*If something is destined for you, never in a million years will it be for someone  
else.*

## DEDICATION PAGE

I dedicate this thesis to my parents and sister for their prayers and unending love, which were why I stayed during my hardest times. Thank you for always being by my side, never leaving me, never giving up on me, and being there when I needed help. You are all the best things that ever happened to me, and I am really grateful to call you my mama, ayah, and adek.

To my extended family, all of your support and encouragement means a lot to me.

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## ABSTRACT

The researcher focuses on how Taylor Swift's *The Man* represents gender inequality. The concept of gender inequality within liberal feminism addresses the unequal treatment and opportunities afforded to individuals based on their gender. It highlights the need for systemic change to create a more equitable society. This song is a primary example of inequality and how a public figure like Taylor Swift uses her platform to raise awareness.

The study used Taylor Swift's song *The Man* as the primary data source, complemented by her documentary, interviews, and articles. The study has two main objectives: firstly, to analyze how gender inequality is represented in *The Man*, and secondly, to explore how the song reflects Taylor Swift's personal experiences. Liberal feminism theory examines the first objective, and biographical theories are used for the second.

The results of this study indicate that in the song *The Man*, nearly every lyric addresses the gender inequality that many women continue to face, including equal liberty and rights in politics and economics. Swift illustrates how men and women are judged differently for the same behaviors and achievements. Additionally, the song emerged from her frustration with how the media constantly commented on her personal life, her problem with Scooter Braun and Kanye West, and her sexual assault. Her lyrics reflect her struggles and resonate with a broader audience of women who face similar challenges in various aspects of their lives. Throughout her musical career, Swift continues to use her platform to address critical social issues and inspire change.

**Keywords: Feminism, The Man, Taylor Swift, Gender Inequality, Biographical Theory,**

## INTISARI

Peneliti berfokus pada bagaimana lagu *The Man* dari Taylor Swift merepresentasikan ketidaksetaraan gender. Konsep ketidaksetaraan gender dalam feminisme liberal membahas perlakuan dan kesempatan yang tidak setara yang diberikan kepada individu berdasarkan jenis kelamin mereka. Hal ini menyoroti perlunya perubahan sistemik untuk menciptakan masyarakat yang lebih adil. Lagu ini adalah contoh utama dari ketidaksetaraan dan bagaimana seorang figur publik seperti Taylor Swift menggunakan platformnya untuk meningkatkan kesadaran.

Penelitian ini menggunakan lagu Taylor Swift yang berjudul *The Man* sebagai sumber data utama primer, dilengkapi dengan film dokumenter, wawancara, dan artikel. Penelitian ini memiliki dua tujuan utama: pertama, untuk menganalisis bagaimana ketidaksetaraan gender direpresentasikan dalam lagu *The Man*, dan kedua, untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana lagu tersebut merefleksikan pengalaman pribadi Taylor Swift. Teori feminisme liberal digunakan untuk meneliti tujuan pertama, dan teori biografi digunakan untuk tujuan kedua.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam lagu *The Man*, hampir setiap liriknya membahas ketidaksetaraan gender yang terus dihadapi oleh banyak perempuan yang terus dihadapi oleh banyak perempuan, termasuk kebebasan dan hak yang sama di bidang politik dan ekonomi. Swift menggambarkan bagaimana laki-laki dan perempuan dinilai secara berbeda untuk perilaku dan prestasi yang sama. Selain itu, lagu ini muncul dari rasa frustasinya terhadap bagaimana media media yang terus-menerus mengomentari kehidupan pribadinya, masalahnya dengan Scooter Braun dan Kanye West, serta pelecehan seksual yang dialaminya. Liriknya mencerminkan kehidupan pribadinya dan beresonansi dengan audiens yang lebih luas dari perempuan yang menghadapi tantangan serupa dalam berbagai aspek kehidupan mereka. Di sepanjang karier musiknya, Swift terus menggunakan platformnya untuk mengatasi masalah sosial yang penting dan menginspirasi perubahan.

**Kata Kunci: Feminism, The Man, Taylor Swift, Kesetaraan Gender, Biografi Teori**