

**REPRESENTATION OF BORDERLINE INTELLECTUAL
FUNCTIONING IN THE *MIRACLE IN CELL NO.7* MOVIE: A SEMIOTIC
STUDY**

An Undergraduate Thesis

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain *Sarjana Sastra*

Degree English Literature Department



By

Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas

2000026075

**ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNICATION
AHMAD DAHLAN UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2024**

APPROVAL PAGE

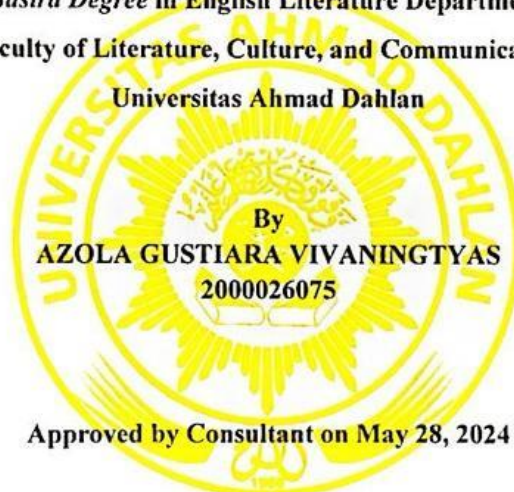
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Sastra Degree in English Literature Department

Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication

Universitas Ahmad Dahlan



Approved by Consultant on May 28, 2024

Consultant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lazuar".

Lazuar Azmi Zulferdi, S.S., M.Appl.Ling.
NIPM. 19920705 201908 111 1334835

RATIFICATION PAGE

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STUDY

An Undergraduate Thesis

By
AZOLA GUSTIARA VIVANINGTYAS
2000026075

This Undergraduate Thesis has been examined on June 14, 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

The Board of Examiners Consist of

1. Chairperson : Lazuar Azmi Zulferdi, S.S., M.Appl.Ling.
2. First Examiner : Dr. Ajar Pradika Ananta Tur, S.S., M.A.
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Yogyakarta, June 14, 2024
English Literature Department
Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication



The Dean

Muhammad Hafiz Kurniawan, S.S., M.A., Ph.D.
NPM. 19791218 200309 111 0900733

STATEMENT OF WORK ORIGINALITY

Name : Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas
Student Number : 2000026075
Department : Sastra Inggris
Faculty : Sastra, Budaya, dan Komunikasi
University : Universitas Ahmad Dahlan

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Yogyakarta, June 14, 2024



Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas

PERNYATAAN

Nama : Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas
NIM : 2000026075
Program Pendidikan : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Sastra, Budaya, dan Komunikasi
Universitas : Universitas Ahmad Dahlan

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Yogyakarta, 14 Juni 2024


Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas

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Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas
NIM : 2000026075 Email : azola2000026075@webmail.uad.ac.id
Fakultas : Sastra, Budaya, dan Komunikasi Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Judul tugas akhir : REPRESENTATION OF BORDERLINE INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING IN
THE MIRACLE IN CELL NO.7 MOVIE: A SEMIOTIC STUDY

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Yogyakarta, 14 Juni 2024


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Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas
NIM : 2000026075 Email : azola2000026075@webmail.uad.ac.id
Fakultas : Sastra, Budaya, dan Komunikasi Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Judul tugas akhir : REPRESENTATION OF BORDERLINE INTELLECTUAL FUNCTIONING IN
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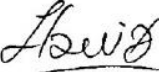
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4. All the lecturers of English Letters Department, Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication of Universitas Ahmad Dahlan

The researcher realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect, therefore suggestions from all readers are highly expected and highly appreciated by the researcher. The researcher hopes that this research can help people who are interested in the field of linguistics, especially semiotics.

Yogyakarta, June 14, 2024

The Researcher


Azola Gustiara Vivaningtyas

MOTTO

“So, surely with hardship comes ease.” (QS. Asy-Syarh [94]: 5-6).

*"The best way to predict the future is to study the past." - Robert Kiyosaki,
Historian and Author*

*"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but
the one most responsive to change." - Charles Darwin, Historian and Naturalist*

*"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what
is in themselves." (Q.S. Ar-Ra'd [13]: 11)*

DEDICATION PAGE

This page has been written specifically to recognize and show appreciation to the people who have supported and contributed to the accomplishment of this undergraduate thesis. The researcher wants to express my sincere gratitude to the following people:

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzes the representation of borderline intellectual function in the *Miracle in Cell No.7* movie using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory with a concept on denotation, connotation, and myth to reveal the symbolic meaning depicted. This theory is important for movie analysis because it provides a structured approach to uncovering deeper meaning in visual and narrative elements. This research is important because it addresses misconceptions about key figures in the criminal justice system where individuals with borderline intellectual functioning are wrongly accused and punished due to social bias and systemic weaknesses. By analyzing these movies, this research aims to counter such prejudices, highlighting the role of movies in reshaping perceptions, increasing empathy, and advocating for justice for similar individuals.

This research includes a qualitative descriptive method by analyzing the *Miracle in Cell No.7* movie, which consists of six scene figures in several situations. The data collection involved careful observation of the main character's behavior. The analysis includes identifying, classifying, and interpreting relevant scenes, ultimately revealing the meaning surrounding the borderline intellectual functions depicted in the movie.

The first finding shows that the denotation of the main character presents himself as a responsible individual. The connotation of his actions defies common stereotypes by highlighting his emotional intelligence, empathy, and moral integrity. Myth analysis reveals how the movie refutes the societal myth that the main character's borderline intellectual function is not a major obstacle to living a meaningful life. Meanwhile, the second finding reveals how the main character has borderline intellectual functions that are not included in intellectual limitations because the main character can show good memory, reasoning, practical knowledge, basic math skills, empathy, social judgment, communication skills, and the ability to follow rules. By emphasizing that individuals who have borderline intellectual functioning can make positive contributions to society.

Keywords: Borderline Intellectual Functioning, Movie, Semiotic Analysis

INTIRISARI

Penelitian ini menganalisis representasi fungsi intelektual ambang dalam film *Miracle in Cell No.7* menggunakan teori semiotika Roland Barthes dengan konsep denotasi, konotasi, dan mitos untuk mengungkap makna simbolik yang digambarkan. Teori ini penting untuk analisis film karena memberikan pendekatan terstruktur untuk mengungkap makna yang lebih dalam dalam elemen visual dan naratif. Penelitian ini penting karena menjawab kesalahpahaman tentang tokoh-tokoh kunci dalam sistem peradilan pidana di mana individu dengan fungsi intelektual yang berada di ambang batas dituduh dan dihukum secara salah karena bias sosial dan kelemahan sistemik. Dengan menganalisis film ini, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menentang prasangka tersebut, menyoroti peran film dalam membentuk kembali persepsi, meningkatkan empati, dan mendukung keadilan bagi individu serupa.

Penelitian ini termasuk metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menganalisis film *Miracle in Cell No.7* yang terdiri dari enam adegan dalam beberapa situasi. Pengumpulan data melibatkan observasi cermat terhadap perilaku tokoh utama. Analisisnya mencakup mengidentifikasi, mengklasifikasikan, dan menafsirkan adegan-adegan yang relevan, yang pada akhirnya mengungkap makna seputar fungsi intelektual yang digambarkan dalam film tersebut.

Temuan pertama menunjukkan bahwa denotasi tokoh utama menampilkan dirinya sebagai individu yang bertanggung jawab. Konotasi tindakannya menentang stereotip umum dengan menonjolkan kecerdasan emosional, empati, dan integritas moralnya. Analisis mitos mengungkapkan bagaimana film tersebut membantah mitos masyarakat bahwa fungsi intelektual tokoh utama bukanlah penghalang utama untuk menjalani kehidupan yang bermakna. Sementara itu, temuan kedua mengungkapkan bagaimana tokoh utama mempunyai fungsi intelektual ambang yang tidak termasuk dalam keterbatasan intelektual karena tokoh utama dapat menunjukkan ingatan yang baik, penalaran, pengetahuan praktis, keterampilan dasar matematika, empati, penilaian sosial, keterampilan komunikasi, dan kemampuan untuk mengikuti aturan. Dengan menekankan bahwa individu yang memiliki fungsi intelektual ambang dapat memberikan kontribusi positif kepada masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: Fungsi Intelektual Ambang, Film, Analisis Semiotika