

**CULTURAL IMPERIALISM AS REFLECTED IN
AMERICAN TV SERIES
CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS (2016)**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements to Obtain *Sarjana Sastra*

Degree of English Literature Department



By

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNICATION
AHMAD DAHLAN UNIVERSITY YOGYAKARTA**

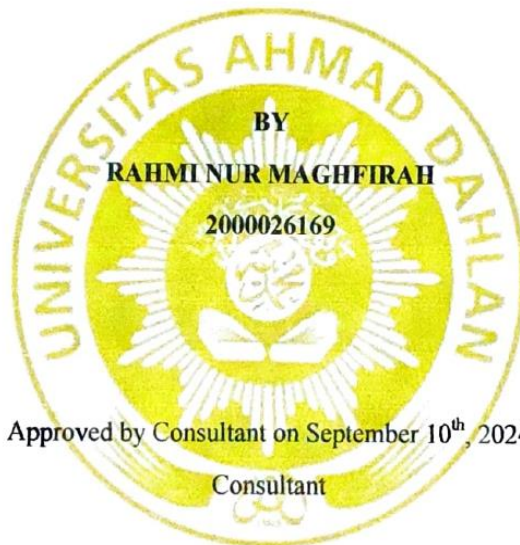
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APPROVAL PAGE

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English Literature Department.



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RATIFICATION PAGE

**CULTURAL IMPERIALISM AS REFLECTED IN
AMERICAN TV SERIES
CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS (2016)**

An Undergraduate Thesis

BY

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2. Wajiran, S.S., M.A., Ph.D., as the Dean of the Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan.
3. Drs. Maftukhin, M.Hum., as the Head of the English Literature Department, Faculty of Literature, Culture, and Communication, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan.

The researcher realizes that this undergraduate thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, suggestions and constructive feedback from readers are most welcome and appreciated. The researcher hopes this study will benefit students, researchers, and anyone interested in the field of American studies.

Yogyakarta, October 3rd 2024



Rahmi Nur Maghfirah

MOTTO

“If you don’t care about yourself, then who will? If you don’t believe in yourself, who will? If you keep doubting yourself, how are you going to survive in this world?” - (YoungK)

DEDICATION PAGE

With gratitude and love, I dedicate this work to:

1. My beloved parents, Bapak Syaifullah and Ibu Sri Rafiyyati. Ayah and Bunda, you are my source of strength, inspiration, and endless prayers. Thank you for your unconditional love, support, and sacrifices that mean the world to me.
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**CULTURAL IMPERIALISM THROUGH AMERICAN TV SERIES
CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS (2016)**

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates the representation of American cultural imperialism in the television series *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016). The study focuses on how American culture is depicted as dominant, particularly through the FBI's International Response Team (IRT) and its role in solving crimes in various countries. By analyzing the series, the research aims to understand how American law enforcement's portrayal in international crime-solving reflects broader narratives of cultural dominance.

A qualitative method is applied, utilizing theories of cultural imperialism and transnational crime to dissect the series' narrative. The data collection involves watching episodes of *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016), identifying and classifying key dialogues, and analyzing cultural representations. The theoretical framework is grounded in Edward Said's concept of cultural imperialism, which explains the Western portrayal of other cultures in a hegemonic light, and Gerhard Mueller's transnational crime theory, which highlights the complexities of cross-border crime.

The findings demonstrate that *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016) reinforces American cultural superiority, often positioning the IRT as the central authority in resolving global issues. The portrayal of non-Western countries and their cultures tends to be stereotypical and exoticized, reflecting a Western-centric worldview. This research provides insights into how popular media shapes perceptions of global crime and reinforces American dominance in international relations.

Keywords: *American Cultural Imperialism, Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders (2016), FBI International Response Team, Transnational Crime*

CULTURAL IMPERIALISM THROUGH AMERICAN TV SERIES *CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS* (2016)

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INTISARI

Penelitian ini mengkaji representasi imperialisme budaya Amerika dalam serial televisi *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016). Studi ini berfokus pada bagaimana budaya Amerika digambarkan sebagai dominan, terutama melalui peran Tim Respons Internasional FBI (IRT) dalam memecahkan kasus-kasus kriminal di berbagai negara. Dengan menganalisis serial tersebut, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami bagaimana penegakan hukum Amerika yang ditampilkan dalam pemecahan kejahatan internasional mencerminkan narasi dominasi budaya yang lebih luas.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan menerapkan teori imperialisme budaya dan kejahatan transnasional untuk membedah narasi dalam serial tersebut. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menonton episode *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016), mengidentifikasi dan mengklasifikasikan dialog kunci, serta menganalisis representasi budaya. Kerangka teoretis penelitian didasarkan pada konsep imperialisme budaya dari Edward Said, yang menjelaskan bagaimana budaya Barat digambarkan secara hegemonik, dan teori kejahatan transnasional dari Gerhard Mueller, yang menyoroti kompleksitas kejahatan lintas negara.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016) memperkuat superioritas budaya Amerika dengan sering menempatkan IRT sebagai otoritas utama dalam menyelesaikan masalah global. Penggambaran negara-negara non-Barat dan budaya mereka cenderung stereotipis dan dieksotisasi, mencerminkan pandangan dunia yang berpusat pada Barat. Penelitian ini memberikan wawasan tentang bagaimana media populer membentuk persepsi tentang kejahatan global dan memperkuat dominasi Amerika dalam hubungan internasional.

Kata Kunci: *Imperialisme Budaya Amerika, Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders (2016), Tim Respons Internasional FBI, Kejahatan Transnasional*