

**THE PORTRAIT OF BIGGER THOMAS' CRIME IN RICHARD  
WRIGHT'S *NATIVE SON***



**A Thesis Presented to the English Department,  
the Faculty of Letters, Widya Mandala University,  
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2010**

## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This is certify that all ideas, phrases and sentences within my thesis entitled The Potrait of Bigger Thomas' Crime in Richard Wright's *Native Son*, unless otherwise stated, are my own ideas, phrases, and sentences.

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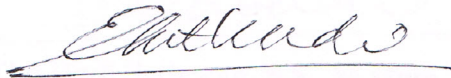
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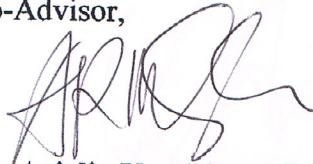
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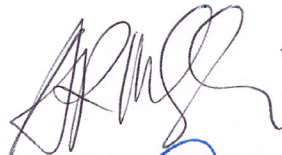
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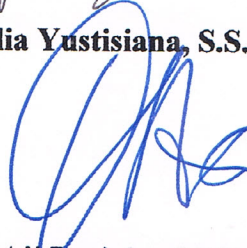
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## **DEDICATION**

Dedicated to:

- Allah S.W.T
- My beloved parents (especially for my mother)
- My beloved brother
- My lecturers
- My relatives
- Myself
- My dear friend
- My Alma Mater

## MOTTO

Success will never be a big step in  
the future, success is small step taken  
just now.

(Jonathan Martensson)

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## ABSTRACT

WIKE AGUSTANTIA (2010). THE PORTRAIT OF BIGGER THOMAS' CRIME IN RICHARD WRIGHT'S *NATIVE SON*.

Madiun: English Department, The Faculty of Letters, Widya Mandala University.

*Native Son* is an interesting novel written by African-American writer, Richard Wright. Richard Wright's *Native Son* is interested to be chosen as the source of main data since it reveals some issues besides racial discrimination. In 1930s, it happens Great Depression. It causes some changes for the white's life and the black's life.

This research focuses in analyzing the portrait of Bigger Thomas' crime in Richard Wright' *Native Son*. In this thesis, there are three problems, first, the kinds of Bigger Thomas' crime, second, the reasons of Bigger Thomas's crime, third the effects of Bigger Thomas' crime.

To formulate the analysis, the main data is taken from the novel of *Native Son*. The library research including internet is used to support the data. There are some theories applied in this research, such as, character, characterization, crime, murder, rapes, setting, Great Depression and racial segregation. Furthermore, there are some approaches applied to analyze the data, namely, sociological approach and psychological approach.

The research focuses on the main character, Bigger Thomas. Bigger Thomas conducts two crimes, namely murder and rapes. Bigger kills the white girl, Mary. Bigger rapes and kills Bessie, Bigger's girlfriend. He conducts it because of some reason. Bigger feels hatred, anger and fear toward the white. He feels it because of the white's bad treatment toward the black. He also can not improve his life since his life has been suppressed by the white. Their life is restricted by the white. His feeling overwhelms his action. Therefore, he conducts the crime since it is a picture of his feeling. Actually, Bigger's crime has changed his mind since he can feel free for the first time in all his life. On the other side, Bigger's crime has made the black life worse than before. The black have to accept the bad effect from Bigger's crime. The white attack and fire the black. Bigger has to get death penalty because of his crime toward the white girl, Mary. The jury does not concern with the black against the black. Hence, The jury gives death penalty since Bigger's crime which has killed the white girl, Mary. In the court, Mr. Max, a white man lawyer, helps Bigger to get mitigate punishment but it is useless. Although, Bigger has some reasons on his crime but the jury does not care toward Bigger's reason. Finally, Bigger has to get death sentence.

## ABSTRAK

WIKE AGUSTANTIS (2010). THE PORTRAIT OF BIGGER THOMAS' CRIME IN RICHARD WRIGHT'S *NATIVE SON*.

Madiun: Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Widya Mandala.

Novel *Native Son* merupakan novel menarik ditulis oleh Richard Wright yang merupakan seorang penulis dari Africa-America. Novel *Native Son* karangan Richard Wright menarik untuk dipilih sebagai sumber utama karena novel *Native Son* menceritakan beberapa masalah selain diskriminasi ras. Pada tahun 1930-an terjadi krisis moneter (Great Depression). Krisis moneter (Great Depression) menyebabkan beberapa perubahan untuk kehidupan orang-orang kulit putih dan orang-orang kulit hitam.

Penelitian ini fokus dalam menganalisa kejahatan Bigger dalam novel *Native Son* karangan Richard Wright. Penelitian ini terdapat tiga permasalahan. Pertama, macam-macam kejahatan Bigger. Kedua, alasan Bigger melakukan kejahatan. Ketiga, pengaruh kejahatan Bigger.

Dalam merumuskan analisis ini, sumber data utama diambil dari novel *Native Son*. Penelitian kepustakaan termasuk sumber dari internet digunakan untuk penambahan data. Ada beberapa teori yang digunakan seperti *character, characterization, crime, murder, rapes, setting, Great Depression and racial segregation*. Selanjutnya, ada beberapa pendekatan yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data seperti pendekatan psikologis and sosiologis.

Penelitian ini memfokuskan pada karakter utama yaitu Bigger Thomas. Bigger Thomas melakukan dua macam kejahatan yaitu membunuh dan memperkosa. Bigger membunuh Mary yang merupakan gadis kulit putih. Bigger memperkosa dan membunuh Bessie yang merupakan pacar Bigger. Bigger melakukan kejahatan karena beberapa alasan. Bigger merasa benci, marah, dan takut terhadap orang-orang kulit putih. Bigger tidak dapat memperbaiki kehidupannya karena orang-orang kulit putih telah menindas kehidupan orang-orang kulit hitam. Kehidupan orang-orang kulit hitam dibatasi oleh orang-orang kulit putih. Perasaan bigger telah mempengaruhi tindakannya. Maka dari itu kejahatan Bigger merupakan gambaran dari perasaannya. Sebenarnya kejahatannya telah mengubah pikirannya karena untuk pertama kalinya dia dapat merasakan kebebasan dalam hidupnya. Disamping itu kejatan bigger membuat orang-orang kulit hitam hidup lebih sengsara. Orang-orang kulit putih menyerang dan memecat orang-orang kulit hitam. Bigger harus mendapat hukuman mati karena dia telah membunuh Mary yang merupakan gadis kulit putih. Para juri tidak memperhatikan permasalahan orang-orang kulit hitam dengan orang-orang kulit hitam. Hukuman mati yang diberikan kepada Bigger karena dia telah membunuh orang kulit putih. Mr. Max adalah seorang pengacara kulit putih yang membantu Bigger untuk mendapat keringanan hukuman di pengadilan, tetapi usahanya sia-sia. Para juri tidak peduli terhadap alasan Bigger meskipun Bigger sudah menyebutkannya. Pada akhirnya bigger harus mendapat hukuman mati dari pengadilan.

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