

ANALYSIS OF THE PLOT AND THE  
THEME BASED ON JOE CHRISTMAS  
CHARACTERIZATION IN WILLIAM  
FAULKNER'S NOVEL *LIGHT IN AUGUST*



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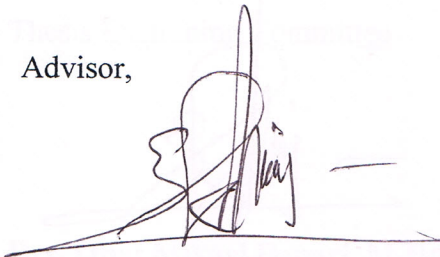
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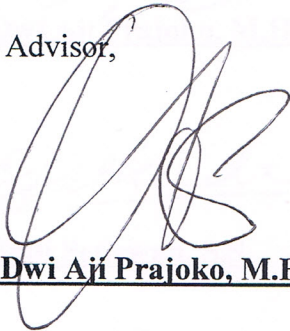
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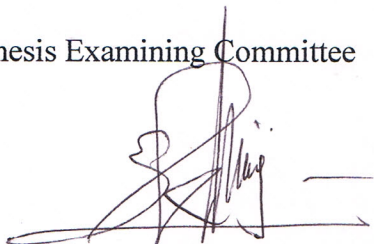
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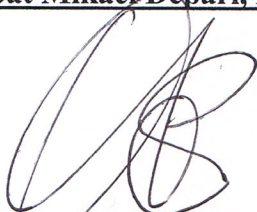
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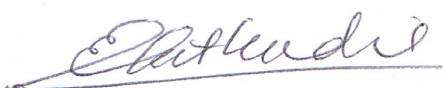
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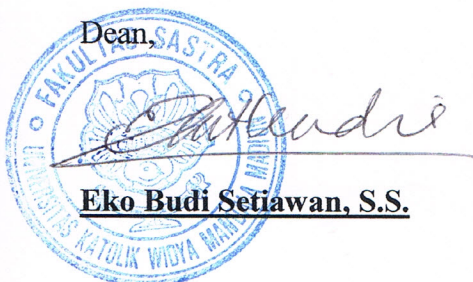


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The Faculty of Letters

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## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to :

- My beloved Mom
- My Lover
- My Alma Mater



## MOTTO

Love is a candle in the darkness.

(Proverb)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Almighty God, whose wonderful blessing has enabled me to compose this thesis properly.

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis analyses *Light in August*, a novel written by William Faulkner. This novel is chosen because it is interesting to analyze the inner conflict of the main character in searching identity matter. The focus of this study is on the main character of this novel, that is, Joe Christmas in order to expose the theme of this novel as seen from Joe Christmas.

There are formulated problems. The first problem is how Joe Christmas is described in the novel. The second problem is how the plot reveals the character development of Joe Christmas. The third problem is what the theme is as seen from Joe Christmas as the main character.

The study is based on the formalistic approach. The formalistic approach is used to analyze Joe Christmas' characteristics, the revealing of the plot to the character development of Joe Christmas, and the theme of the novel as seen from Joe Christmas as the main character. Therefore, the two theories are combined to answer the formulated problems. Those theories are the theory of literature and the theory of critical approaches of literature.

Joe Christmas' characteristics are unpredictable, sly, rebellious, and stubborn. It happened because he refuses his mulatto condition and to be treated in the ways he dislikes. Joe is a mulatto. Therefore, he cannot place himself into the black and the white communities as demanded by the environment. For his lifetime, he tries to search his proper identity, which he has known already the answer that he is a mulatto. The theme as seen from Joe Christmas as the main character is that some people search their identity because of the race they have and the searching identity may create inner conflicts in their lives.



## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisa *Light in August*, sebuah novel yang ditulis oleh William Faulkner. Novel ini dipilih karena menarik untuk menganalisa konflik batiniah karakter utama dalam pencarian identitas. Fokus studi ini adalah pada karakter utama novel ini yaitu Joe Christmas untuk menyingkap tema novel ini yang ditinjau dari Joe Christmas.

Terdapat tiga rumusan permasalahan. Permasalahan yang pertama adalah bagaimanakah Joe Christmas diceritakan di dalam novel ini. Permasalahan kedua adalah bagaimanakah alur cerita mengungkapkan perkembangan karakter Joe Christmas. Permasalahan yang ketiga adalah apakah tema yang ditinjau dari Joe Christmas sebagai karakter utama.

Studi ini berdasarkan pendekatan formalistik. Pendekatan formalistik digunakan untuk menganalisis Joe Christmas, pengungkapan alur cerita terhadap perkembangan karakter Joe Christmas dan tema novel ini ditinjau dari Joe Christmas sebagai karakter utama. Oleh sebab itu, dua teori dikombinasikan untuk menjawab rumusan permasalahan. Teori – teori tersebut adalah teori kesusastraan dan teori pendekatan kritik sastra.

Joe Christmas adalah orang yang tidak dapat ditebak, licik, pemberontak, dan keras kepala. Hal tersebut terjadi karena dia menolak kondisi peranakan kulit hitam dan kulit putih, dan menolak untuk diperlakukan dalam beberapa cara yang dia tidak menyukainya. Joe adalah peranakan kulit hitam dan kulit putih. Oleh karena itu, dia tidak dapat menempatkan dirinya kedalam komunitas kulit hitam atau komunitas kulit putih seperti yang dituntut oleh lingkungan. Sepanjang hidupnya, dia mencoba untuk mencari identitas yang cocok, dimana dia sudah mengetahui jawaban tersebut, yaitu bahwa dirinya adalah seorang peranakan kulit hitam dan kulit putih. Tema yang ditinjau dari Joe Christmas sebagai karakter utama adalah bahwa beberapa orang harus mencari identitasnya karena ras yang mereka miliki dan pencarian jati diri dapat menciptakan konflik batiniah dalam hidup mereka.

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