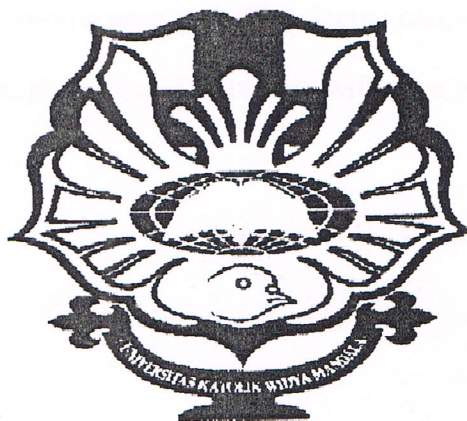


**THE PORTRAIT OF BLACK WOMAN'S STRUGGLE
LIVING IN THE 'WHITE WORLD' AS SEEN IN AUNT
HAGER'S CHARACTER IN LANGSTON HUGHES'
*NOT WITHOUT LAUGHTER***



**A Thesis Presented to the English Department
the Faculty of Letters, Widya Mandala University
as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Sarjana Degree
in English**

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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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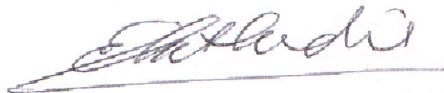
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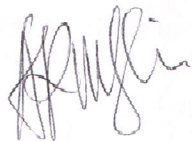
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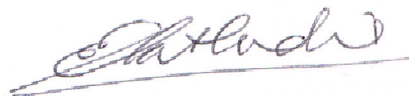
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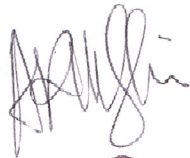
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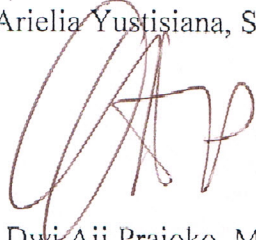
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Acknowledged by

The Dean of Faculty of Letters,



(Eko Budi Setiawan, S.S.)

Dedicated to:

- My beloved parents
- My beloved brothers and sister
- My beloved uncle
- My best friends
- My Alma Mater

MOTTO:

Well done is better than well said

(Benjamin Franklin)

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First, I would like to say my biggest gratitude to the Almighty Allah SWT for guiding me through the process of writing this thesis, entitled: **“The Portrait of Black Woman’s Struggle Living in the ‘White World’ as seen in Aunt Hager’s Character in Langston Hughes’ *Not Without Laughter*”** and making its completion possible.

Second, I would like to say my unfinishing grateful for Mr. Eko Budi Setiawan, S.S., my first advisor, who supports me in taking the novel *Not Without Laughter* and never stops reminding me to accomplish this thesis. Then, I would also like to say much thank to Ms. Rr. Arielia Yustisiana, S.S., my co-advisor and sister, who has suggested and has given me the idea of using the novel *Not Without Laughter* as my thesis analysis from the very beginning. She never stops guiding me in writing this thesis and always supports me in finishing it (Thanx a bunch sista!).

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I know that this thesis is still far from perfection, but I hope the result of this thesis research can be useful. To make this thesis perfect, I still hope for any criticisms and suggestions from the readers. Thank you very much.

IRENE SARASWATY B.

ABSTRAK

Kesusastaan adalah sarana komunikasi yang mewakili pikiran-pikiran manusia melalui bahasa tulis. Kesusastaan terdiri dari tiga jenis: fiksi, yang terdiri dari cerita pendek dan novel; drama dan puisi. Novel adalah sebuah cerita yang panjang yang ditulis dalam prosa. Novel memiliki beragam kejadian. Novel juga merupakan sebuah gambaran kehidupan nyata, tingkah laku, dan waktu saat novel tersebut ditulis. Oleh karena itu, pembaca dapat membayangkan waktu dan tempat dari cerita yang dimaksud oleh pengarang. Dalam hal ini, penulis memilih sebuah novel karya Langston Hughes yang berjudul *Not Without Laughter*. Novel ini diterbitkan pertama kali pada tahun 1930. Langston Hughes sendiri adalah salah satu dari banyak penulis kulit hitam berbakat yang dihubungkan dengan sebuah periode yang disebut sebagai Harlem Renaissance. *Not Without Laughter* adalah satu dari dua novelnya yang terkenal, disamping karya-karyanya yang lain dan disebut sebagai novel semi-autobiografi.

Not Without Laughter menceritakan sebuah keluarga kulit hitam yang tinggal di kawasan kulit putih di awal abad kedua puluh. Aunt Hager, karakter utama wanita dalam novel ini, adalah sebuah gambaran dari seorang wanita tua berkulit hitam yang pernah hidup di masa perbudakan dan berjuang keras untuk mempertahankan kehidupan keluarganya. Dia memiliki harapan besar terhadap anak-anak perempuannya untuk mengangkat kaum kulit hitam sehingga mereka memiliki persamaan status sosial dengan kaum kulit putih. Namun, ketika satu per satu anak perempuannya mengecewakannya, dia mengalihkan perhatiannya kepada cucu lelakinya.

Alasan penulis dalam menganalisa *Not Without Laughter* mengacu pada gambaran seorang wanita tua kulit hitam yang berjuang hidup diantara masyarakat kaum kulit putih untuk membesarkan anak-anaknya dan memenuhi kebutuhan mereka. Dengan membaca novel ini membuat penulis lebih memahami tentang kehidupan kaum kulit hitam di awal abad kedua puluh. Beberapa dari mereka membenci kaum kulit putih dan tidak pernah mencoba menghargai mereka, beberapa yang lain mencoba untuk menyesuaikan diri dengan kehidupan kaum kulit putih dengan mempelajari cara berbicara dan bertingkah laku mereka. Namun, Aunt Hager tidak pernah mencoba melakukan keduanya. Dia tidak pernah membenci kaum kulit putih atau mencoba melakukan apa yang mereka lakukan. Dia menghargai mereka, tapi dia tetap ingin melihat kaum kulit hitam 'muncul ke permukaan' tanpa meninggalkan takdir mereka sebagai orang kulit hitam. Dia mengajarkan pada anak-anaknya untuk menghargai kaum kulit putih karena dia beranggapan bahwa tanpa kaum kulit putih, kaum kulit hitam tidak bisa mendapatkan pekerjaan.

Dalam penulisan ini, penulis mengambil sumber data utama dari novel *Not Without Laughter* karya Langston Hughes, dan dengan mengumpulkan data-data dan referensi-referensi yang lain untuk mendukung skripsi ini. Disamping itu, penulis menggunakan teori seting untuk menggambarkan sudut pandang Aunt

Hager terhadap kaum kulit putih yang telah mendiskriminasi kaum kulit hitam; juga teori feminis yang digunakan penulis untuk membahas perjuangan Aunt Hager dalam membesarkan anak-anaknya diantara masyarakat kaum kulit putih; dan teori konflik sosial dan psikologis untuk menjelaskan akibat dari pengalaman Aunt Hager dalam mendidik anak perempuannya yang termuda yang bernama Harriett dan cucu lelakinya yang bernama Sandy.

Banyak pelajaran yang dapat diambil dari novel *Not Without Laughter*. Sebagai wanita berkulit hitam yang sudah tua, Aunt Hager menghadapi banyak kesulitan dan halangan selama hidupnya. Namun, dia tidak pernah meratapi hidupnya. Dia tetap berjuang untuk bertahan hidup untuk memenuhi kebutuhan keluarganya. Dia selalu menghadapi kesulitan dengan keriang dan kebanggaan. Penulis berharap dengan membaca skripsi ini, pembaca dapat lebih memahami tentang kesabaran dalam menghadapi setiap situasi sulit yang muncul dalam hidup ini. Selain itu penulis juga berharap pembaca dapat lebih mengerti tentang feminis, khususnya untuk wanita kulit hitam.

IRENE SARASWATY B.

ABSTRACT

Literature is a means of communication which represents human's thoughts through written language. There are three kinds of literature: fiction, which consists of short story and novel; drama and poetry. Novel is a long story written in prose. It has various incidents. Novel is also a picture of real life, manners, and of time in which it is written. Therefore, the readers can imagine the time and place of the story that are meant by the author. In this case, the writer chooses a novel written by Langston Hughes entitled *Not Without Laughter*. This novel is first published in 1930. Langston Hughes himself, is one of many talented black writers connected with the period called the Harlem Renaissance. *Not Without Laughter* is one of his two famous novels, besides his other works, and it is called as a semi-autobiographical novel.

Not Without Laughter brings a story of a Negro family living in the white environment in the early twentieth century. Aunt Hager, the main female character in this novel, is a picture of an old black woman who has ever lived in the slavery period and struggles hard to survive her family. She has a great hope on her daughters to raise up the black people so that they will have the same social status with the white people. However, when her daughters one by one disappoint her, she turns her attention to her grandson.

The writer's reason in analyzing *Not Without Laughter* is due to the portrait of a black woman who struggles living in the 'white world' to raise her children and to fulfill their needs. Reading this novel makes the writer understand more about the life of black people in the early twentieth century. Some of them hate the white people and never try to respect them, while some others try to fit the white people's life by learning the way they speak and behave. However, Aunt Hager never tries to do both. She never hates the white people or tries to do what they do. She respects them, but she still wants to see the black people 'appear in the surface' without leaving their destiny as black people. She teaches her daughters to respect the white people as she considers that without the white people, the black cannot earn a living.

In this writing, the writer takes the main source of data from the novel *Not Without Laughter* written by Langston Hughes, and by collecting some data and other references in order to support this thesis. Besides, theory of setting is used to describe Aunt Hager's point of view towards the white people who have discriminated the black people; theory of feminism is used to discuss Aunt Hager's struggle for raising her children in the 'white world'; and theory of social and psychological conflict is used to explain the effect of Aunt Hager's experience in educating her youngest daughter, Harriett, and her grandson, Sandy.

Many lessons can be taken from the novel *Not Without Laughter*. As an old black woman, Aunt Hager faces many difficulties and handicaps during her lifetime. However, she never cries for her life. She keeps struggling to survive to fulfill her family's needs. She always faces the difficulties with joy and pride. The

writer hopes that by reading this thesis, the readers are able to understand more about patience in facing every hard situation that occurs in this life. Besides that, the writer also hopes that the readers will understand more about feminism, especially black women feminism.

IRENE SARASWATY B.

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