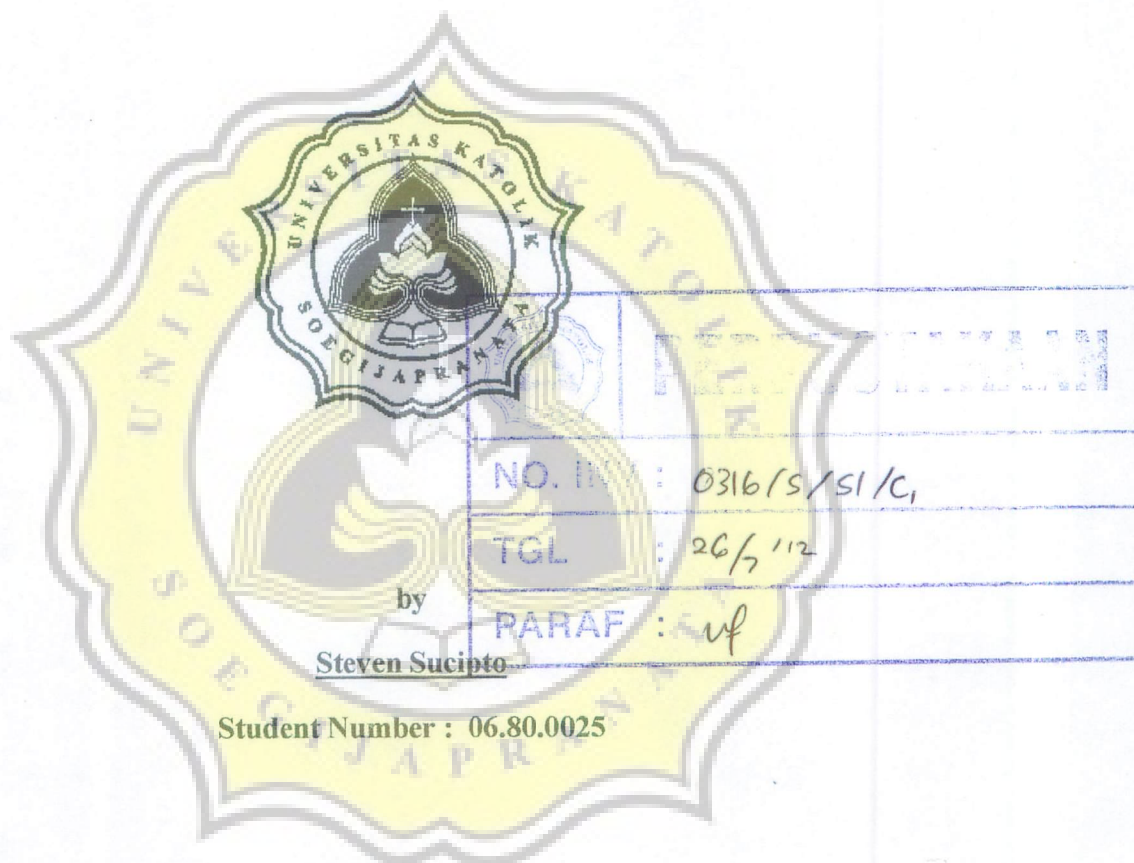


**LANGSTON HUGHES' HARLEM RENAISSANCE IN THE
"RED HEADED BABY", "THANK YOU MA'AM", "ONE
FRIDAY MORNING"**

**A Thesis Presented as Partial fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain the
Sarjana Sastra Degree in the English Letters Study Programme**



by
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Student Number : 06.80.0025

**ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME
FACULTY OF LETTERS
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SEMARANG
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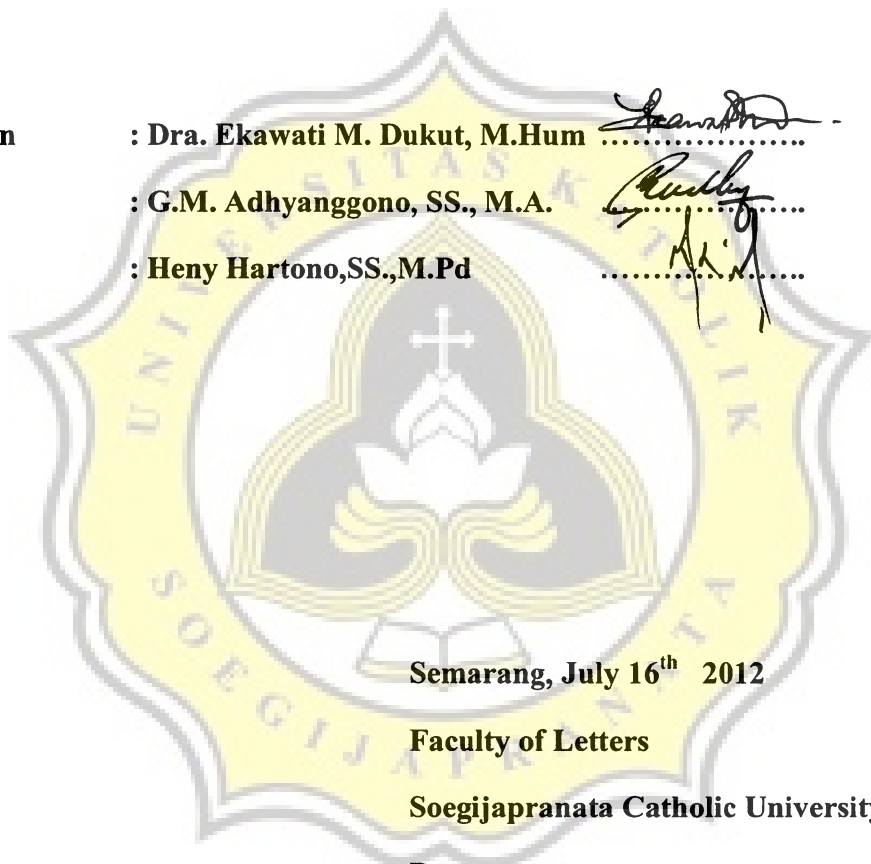
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Dean,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heny Hartono'.

Heny Hartono, SS, M.Pd

058.1.1998.221

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ABSTRACT

The “Red Headed Baby”, “Thank You Ma’am”, and “One Friday Morning” are among Langston Hughes’ well known short stories which talk about African-American people, racism, inequality, and poverty and the most special issue that can only be found in “Red Headed Baby” is about the mulatto. In “Red Headed Baby” the center characters of the short story are Betsy, Betsy’s mother and Clarence, the white seamen.

Through this short story, the readers are shown the actual life of African-American people, how they struggle to get the equality and fight the poverty that strike their life. The burden as a member of an excluding class, get worse when it is undergone by a mulatto. A mulatto is a person of mixed white and black ancestry, especially a person with one white and one black parent. This is what happens to the main character of “Red Headed Baby”, named Betsy. As a mother of a child that is descended from white man, Betsy must face the reality that she and her child will be rejected by the society.

The second short story named “Thank You Ma’am” tells us about the poverty that is experienced by the African-American people and the inequality between them and the white people. In this short story, Langston Hughes shows the general issues of black people through a main character named Roger where he had to do a crime and tried to steal from a lady. Unbelievably, his crime was paid back by the lady with her kindness. Instead of taking Roger to the police station; Mrs. Luella Bates gave

him money and gave Roger a good lesson for his life that, he does not have to steal if he wanted something.

The last short story entitled “One Friday Morning” is another short story from Langston Hughes which talks about the racism that is experienced by a young black student of an integrated school in America. One example of racism that can be found in this short story is the custom of referring to African-Americans by the terms “Negro” and “colored” and it was prevalent in 1952, when the short story was made, and that custom is reflected in the story.

From the beginning, the writer choose the three short stories because the writer wants to show to the reader that most of Hughes’ work contain some specific issues such as racism and inequality, poverty, prostitution, and mulatto. By writing this thesis, the writer wants the readers to get knowledge that as a noted author in Harlem Renaissance, Hughes presented unique and important issues in most of his work and his background of life really influences the plot of his short stories.

The approach used in this thesis is Sociological approach. One characteristic of this approach is to analyze literature in the cultural, economic, and political context in which it is written. By this criticism, it is traced that Hughes’ background influence the plot story of most of his short stories.

Keywords: Racism, inequality, mulatto, Harlem Renaissance.

ABSTRAK

“Red Headed Baby”, “Thank You Ma’am”, dan “One Friday Morning” adalah cerita pendek yang cukup ternama dari antara cerita pendek yang menceritakan mengenai orang Afrika-Amerika, rasisme, ketidaksetaraan, dan kemiskinan dan isu yang paling istimewa yang hanya ditemukan di “Red Headed Baby” adalah isu mengenai mulatto (anak campuran kulit hitam dan kulit putih). Dalam “Red Headed Baby” tokoh-tokoh utama adalah Betsy, Ibu Betsy dan Clarence sang pelaut kulit putih.

Melalui cerita pendek ini, para pembaca ditunjukkan kehidupan sesungguhnya dari orang-orang Afrika-Amerika, bagaimana mereka berjuang keras untuk mendapatkan kesetaraan dan melawan kemiskinan yang mereka hadapi dalam hidup mereka. Beban sebagai anggota dari kelompok yang terabaikan semakin memburuk ketika beban ini dirasakan oleh seorang mulatto. Mulatto adalah seorang anak campuran dari orang tua berkulit hitam dan putih. Hal inilah yang terjadi pada tokoh utama dari “Red Headed Baby” yang bernama Betsy. Sebagai seorang ibu kulit hitam dengan seorang anak yang memiliki ayah berkulit putih, Betsy harus menghadapi kenyataan bahwa dia dan anaknya ditolak oleh masyarakat sekitar mereka.

Cerita pendek kedua berjudul “Thank You Ma’am” bercerita mengenai kemiskinan yang di alami oleh orang Afrika-Amerika dan ketidaksetaraan antara

mereka dan orang kulit putih. Dalam cerita pendek ini, Langston Hughes menunjukkan isu umum yang dialami oleh orang kulit hitam melalui tokoh utama yang bernama Roger, dimana dia harus melakukan tindak kejahatan dan berusaha mencuri dari seorang nyonya berkulit hitam. Ironisnya, kejahatannya dibalas dengan kebaikan oleh Nyonya tersebut, alih-alih melaporkan Roger ke polisi, Nyonya Luella Bates justru memberikan Roger sejumlah uang dan memberi pelajaran berharga pada Roger, bahwa tidak selayaknya dia mencuri dari orang lain.

Cerita pendek terakhir berjudul “One Friday morning” adalah cerita pendek hasil karya Langston Hughes yang lain yang berkisah mengenai rasisme yang dialami oleh seorang murid muda berkulit hitam pada sebuah sekolah campuran di Amerika. Satu contoh dari rasisme yang dapat di temukan di dalam cerita pendek ini adalah kebiasaan memanggil pada orang Afrika-Amerika dengan istilah “negro” dan “berwarna” dan ini biasa terjadi di tahun 1952, waktu di mana ketika cerita ini di buat, dan kebiasaan ini tercermin pada cerita ini.

Dari awal, penulis memilih ketiga cerita pendek ini karena penulis ingin menunjukkan pada para pembaca bahwa hamper sebagian besar karya Hughes terdiri beberapa isu-isu spesifik seperti rasisme dan ketidaksetaraan, kemiskinan, prostitusi, dan mulatto. Dengan menulis thesis ini, penulis ingin supaya pembaca mendapatkan pengetahuan bahwa sebagai seorang pengarang yang ternama pada masa Harlem Renaissance, Hughes menyajikan isu-isu yang unik dan bermakna pada sebagian besar karya-karyanya dan latar belakang kehidupannya sungguh mempengaruhi plot cerita pendek karya-karyanya.

Pendekatan yang digunakan pada thesis ini adalah pendekatan Sosiologis. Satu ciri dari teori pendekatan ini adalah menganalisa karya sastra pada segi budaya, ekonomi, dan konteks politik dimana karya tersebut di tuliskan. Dengan pendekatan ini, dapat ditelusuri bahwa latar belakang Hughes sangat mempengaruhi plot cerita dari sebagian besar cerita pendek karyanya.

Kata-kata kunci: Rasialisme, ketidaksetaraan, mulatto, Harlem Renaissance.

