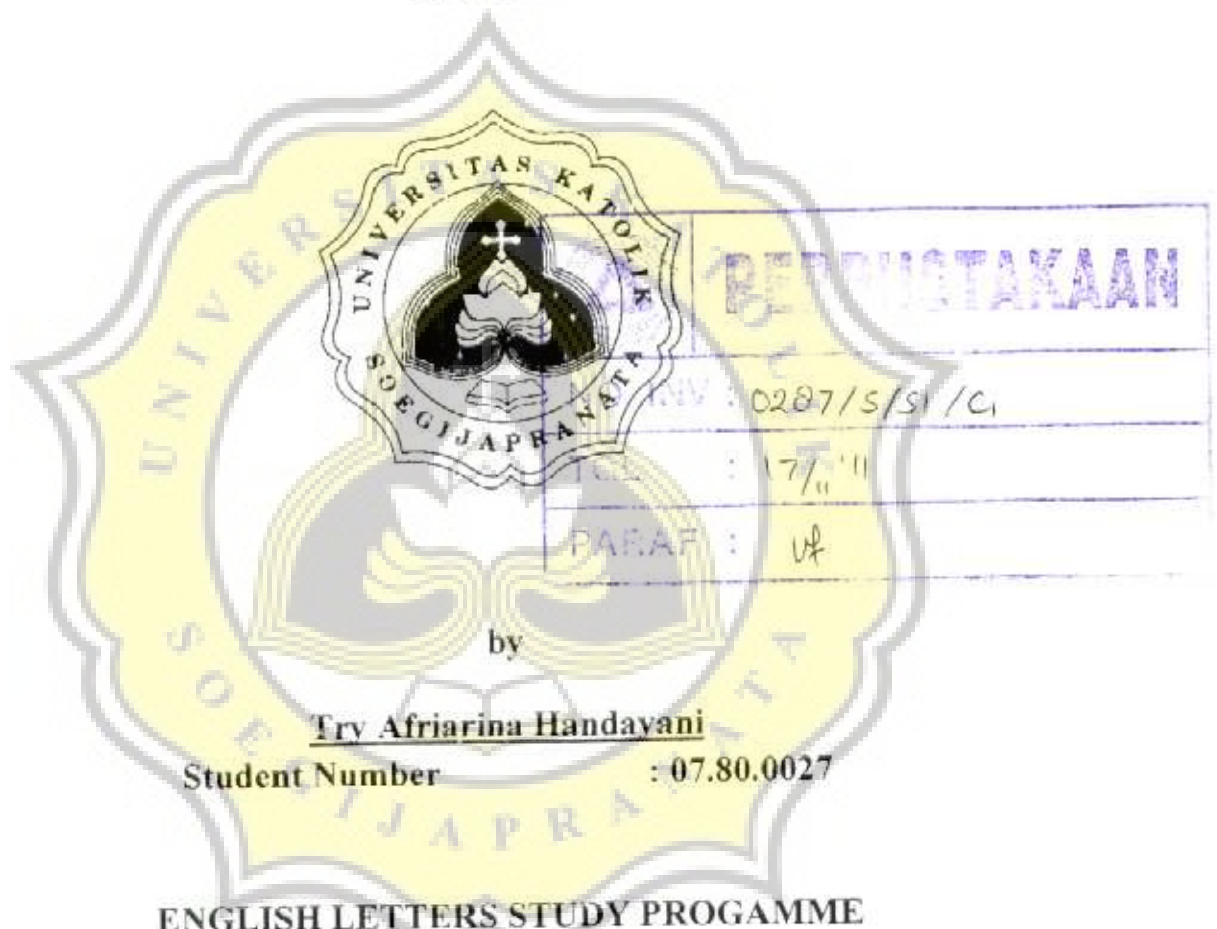


**THE 1950s AMERICAN SOCIETY'S INFLUENCE TOWARDS  
HUMBERT AND LOLITA'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

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



by

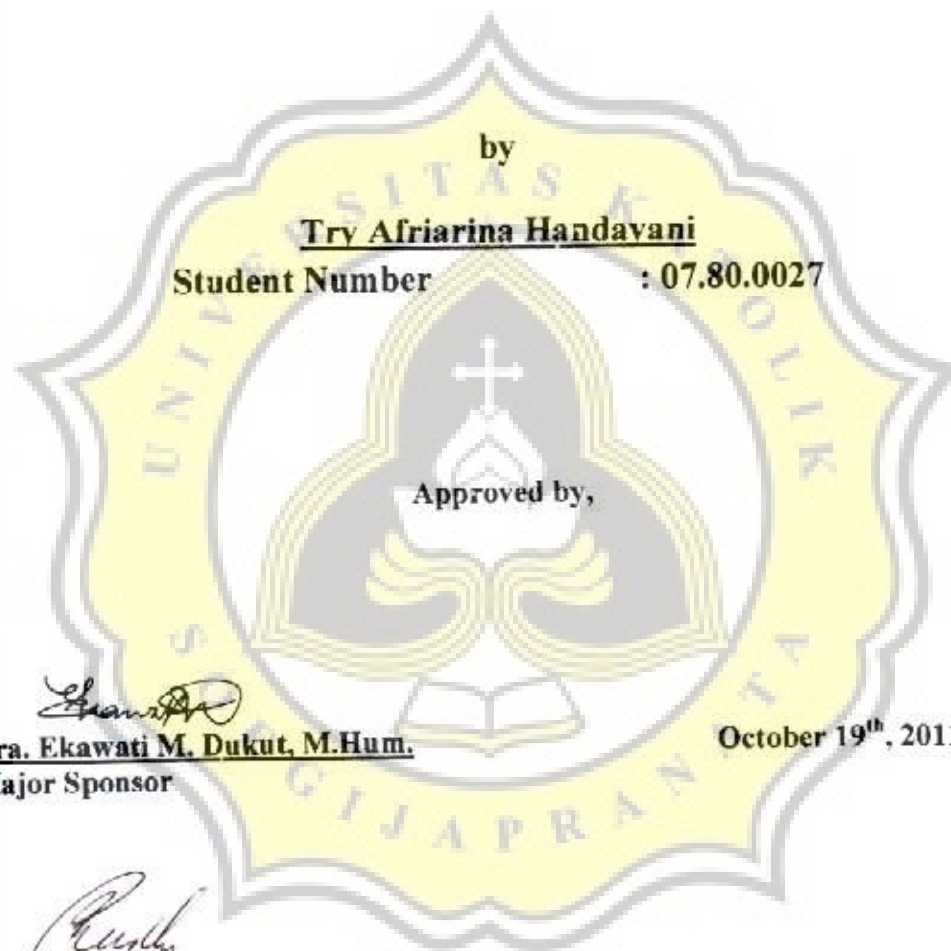
Try Afriarina Handayani

Student Number : 07.80.0027

**ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
SEMARANG**

2011

**A THESIS ON**  
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**HUMBERT AND LOLITA'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**



by

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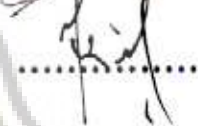
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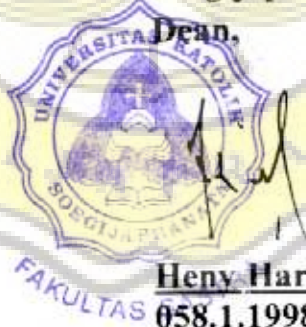
  
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## ABSTRACT

*Lolita* is one of Vladimir Nabokov's novel. It is a story about two major characters: Humbert Humbert dan Dolores Haze (Lolita). When Humbert was a child he had a sexual experience with his first love, Annabel, which made him became a pedophile. In his adult life, he became obsessed to find a figure of his first love or nymphet to every girl that he met. When he met Lolita, he found the figure of his nymphet inside Lolita. Lolita was a 12 year old girl that received Humbert's habit and sexual activity without any fear. Lolita is different with her peers, because in sex she was like an adult. She think that what she do is normal because she often saw it in magazines. So, as a result, they have a strange relationship between a middle aged man with a sexually active 12 year old girl.

The writer chose *Lolita* novel because the writer wants to know why the novel became popular and a best seller in the 20<sup>th</sup> century America. The setting of the novel was in America in the 1950s where in the society had new condition after experiencing the World War II and Cold War. The theme of the novel is unique because it is about a middle aged pedophile and his stepdaughter who had a strange relationship and leads them to spend a year together in the journey around America only to have sex. Many pornographic elements are shown in the novel which makes the novel become vulgar. The pornographic elements are shown from the language and visualisation of the major characters.

To analyze this thesis the writer used the sociological approach and popular culture approach. The sociological approach explains the social background which influenced the main character's strange habit. By using popular culture approach, the writer analyzed the situation of the popular society in America of the 1950s.

From the writer's analysis the writer found that the cause of why Lolita is sexually mature is because she read adult magazines with sexual contents and watched television without her parent's guardian. Lolita's bad experience in school taught her to have vulgar sex. Her broken home family's plurality also made her show more freedom in behaving and using more abusive language than her peers. The writer also found that Humbert's enjoyment with a nymphet was because he had a lonely childhood and he could not resist Lolita's sexual desires. So, when Lolita starts to reject his love making, Humbert makes situations in order for him to always satisfy his lust for Lolita.



## ABSTRAK

*Lolita* adalah salah satu novel Vladimir Nabokov yang bercerita tentang dua karakter utama: Humbert Humbert dan Dolores Haze (Lolita). Humbert mempunyai pengalaman seksual masa kecil yang buruk bersama pacar pertamanya, Annabel, yang membuat dia menjadi seorang pedophil. Obsesinya adalah mencari sosok peri asmara pada setiap gadis yang ia temui. Ketika dia bertemu Lolita, dia merasa menemukan sosok peri asmara masa lalunya. Lolita yang berusia 12 tahun menerima perilaku Humbert tanpa rasa takut. Perilaku Lolita juga berbeda dengan anak seusianya dia lebih cenderung bersikap dewasa dalam menanggapi perilaku sex Humbert. Dia menganggap apa yang dia lakukan adalah normal karena dia menemukan hal seperti itu di majalah. Sehingga mereka melakukan hubungan terlarang antara lelaki dewasa dan anak gadis berusia 12 tahun.

Penulis memilih novel *Lolita* karena ingin mengetahui sebab mengapa novel tersebut menjadi novel yang terkenal dan laris di Amerika. Tempat alur cerita novel ini di Amerika tahun 1950s yang masyarakatnya mengalami kondisi baru setelah perang dunia ke-2 dan perang dingin. Tema novel ini juga sangat unik karena menceritakan tentang lelaki dewasa dan anak tirinya yang mempunyai hubungan aneh dan itu membuat mereka menghabiskan waktu bersama bertahun-tahun dalam perjalanan mengelilingi Amerika hanya untuk mendapatkan sex. Di dalam novel ini terdapat banyak elemen pornografi yang ditampilkan sehingga kesannya vulgar. Pornografi yang ditampilkan juga sangat beragam mulai dari perilaku dan tata bahasa dari karakter utama.

Untuk menganalisa fenomena tersebut pendekatan yang digunakan penulis dalam menganalisa novel ini adalah pendekatan sosiologi. Pendekatan ini digunakan untuk menganalisa latar belakang sosial karakter utama yang mempengaruhi kebiasaan aneh mereka. Dan penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan budaya populer yang digunakan untuk menganalisa kejadian-kejadian populer pada tahun 1950s.

Dari analisa ini, penulis menemukan bahwa penyebab Lolita berperilaku layaknya orang dewasa adalah karena seringnya dia membaca majalah dewasa yang bertema seksual dan juga tayangan televisi tanpa pengawasan ibunya. Pengalaman Lolita di sekolah yang buruk juga mengajarkan sex secara vulgar. Kehidupan keluarganya yang kacau membuatnya lebih memperlihatkan kebebasan berperilaku sesuai keinginannya dan dalam menggunakan bahasa yang lebih kasar daripada teman seusianya. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa kesenangan Humbert terhadap peri-peri asmaranya dikarenakan masa kecil yang tidak menyenangkan dan dia tidak dapat menolak pesona seksual Lolita. Sehingga, ketika Lolita menolak untuk melakukan hubungan seksual dengannya, Humbert membuat suasana yang enak agar dia bisa memuaskan birahinya terhadap Lolita.