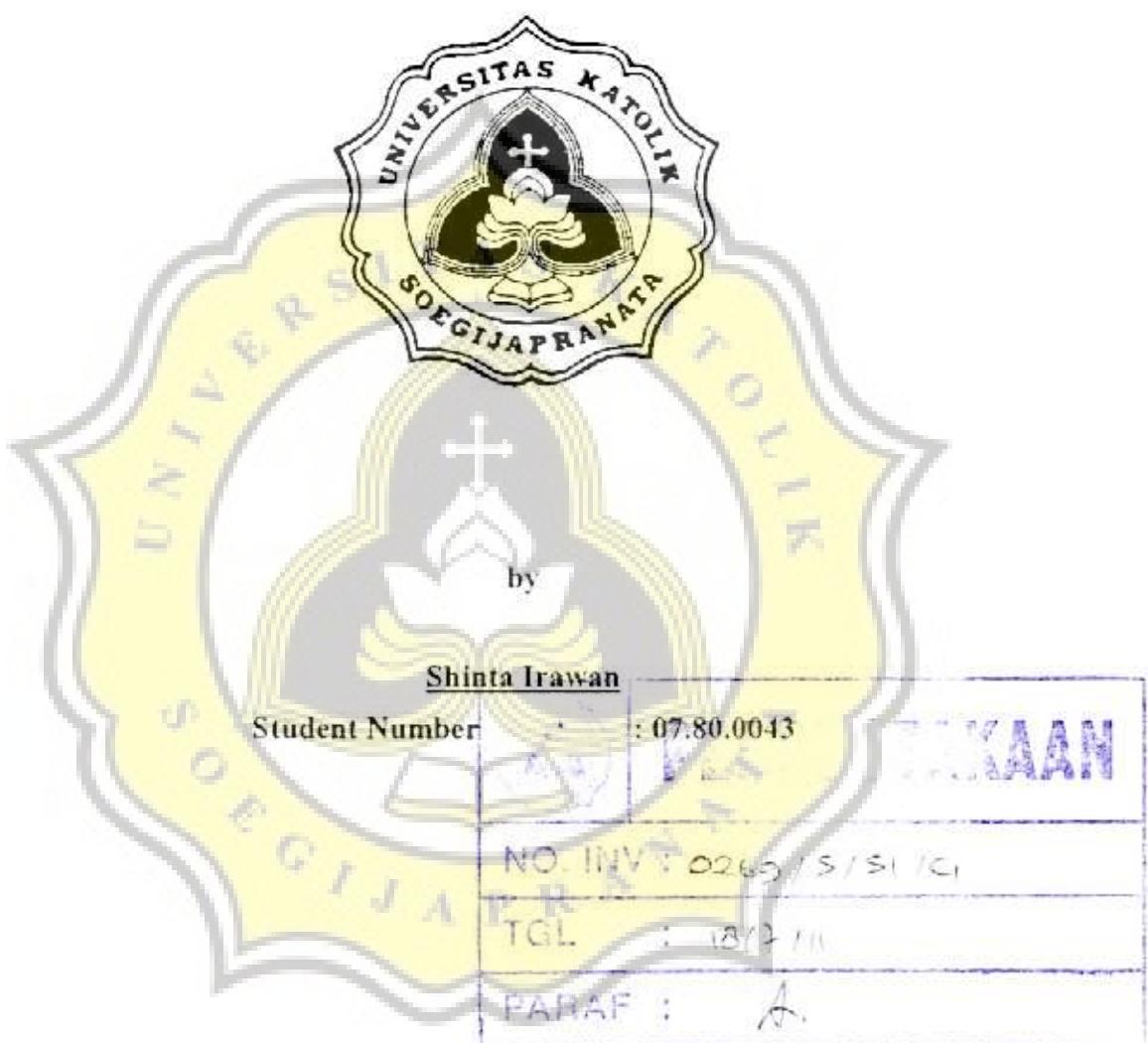


*GIRLS OF RIYADH: THE ARAB-AMERICAN MICHELE'S SEARCH
FOR A CULTURAL IDENTITY*

A THESIS



ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME

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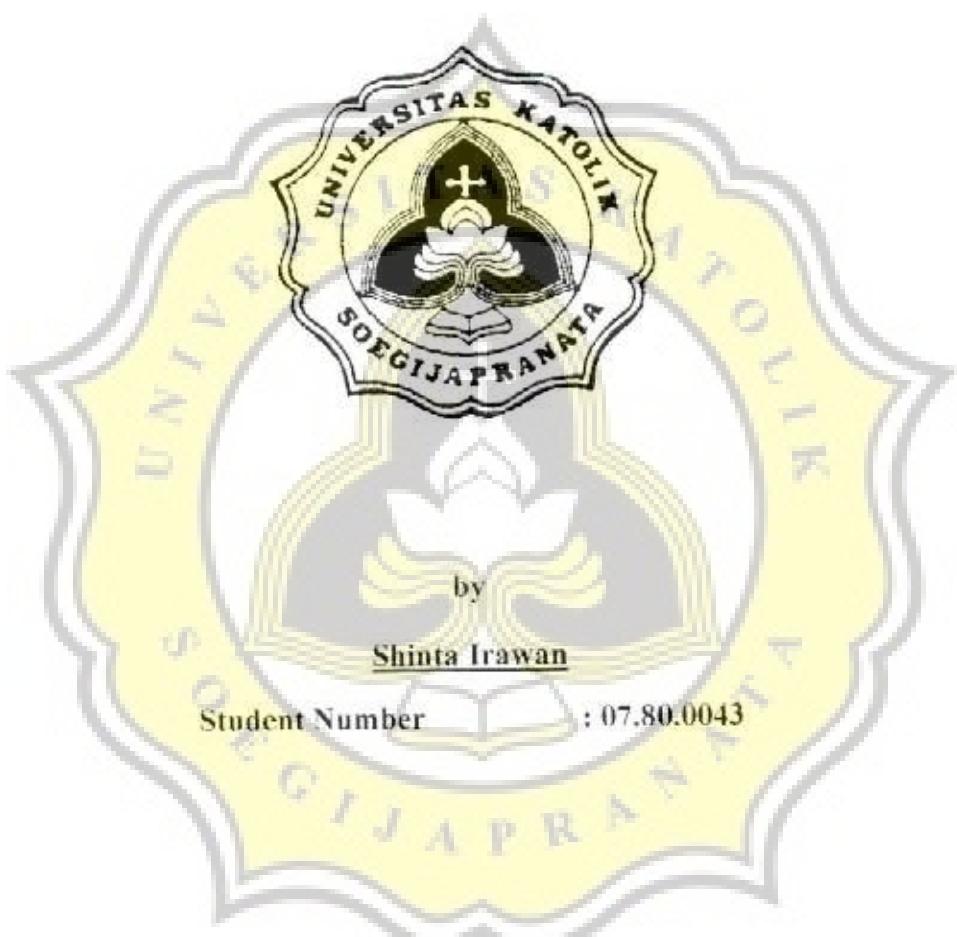
SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2011

**GIRLS OF RIYADH: THE ARAB-AMERICAN MICHELE'S SEARCH
FOR A CULTURAL IDENTITY**

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



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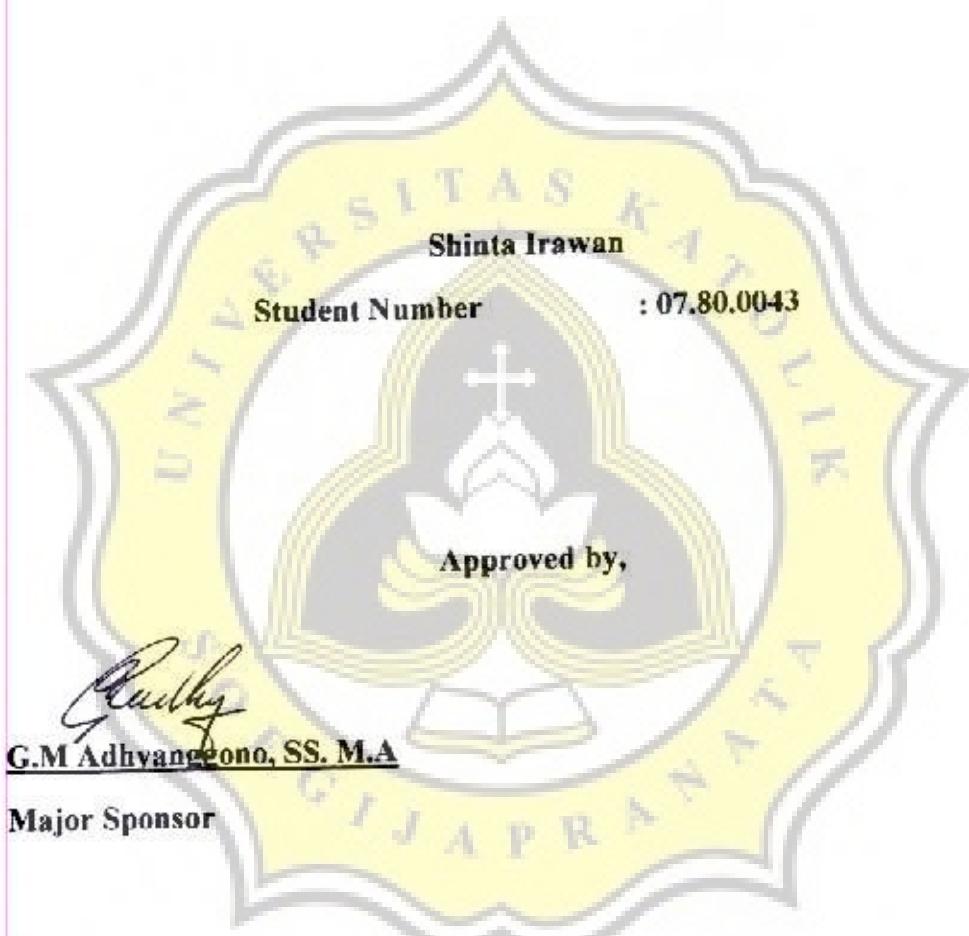
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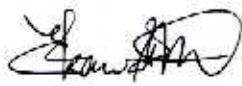
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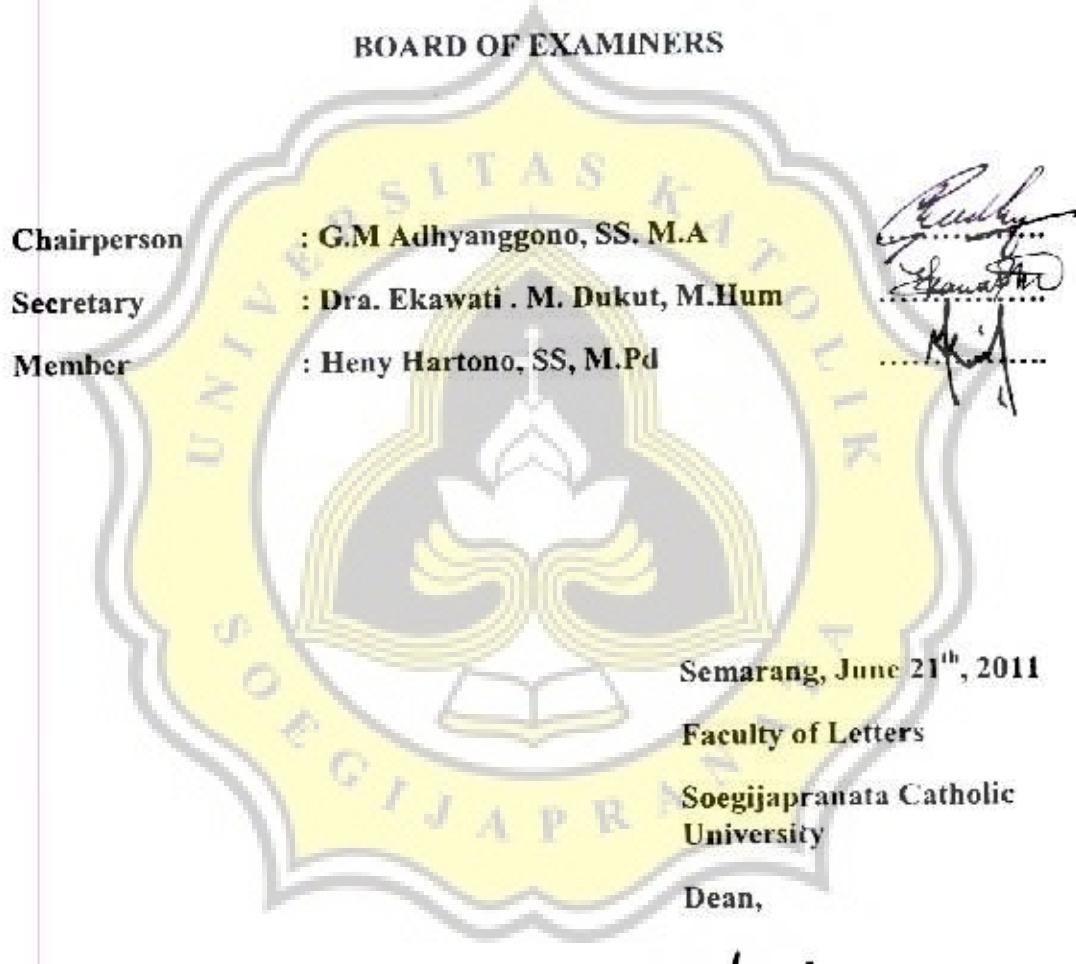
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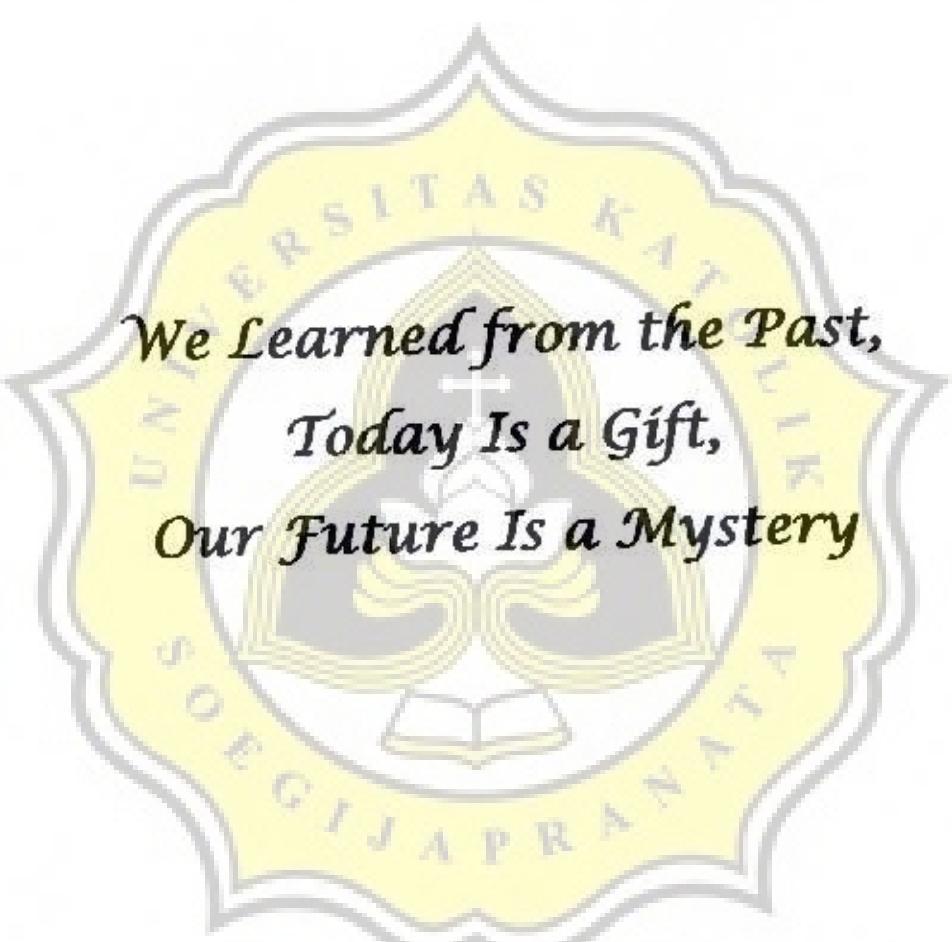
A thesis defended in front of the Board of Examiners on June 21th, 2011
and declared acceptable



Heny Hartono, SS, M.Pd

058.1.1998.221

MOTTO



*We Learned from the Past,
Today Is a Gift,
Our Future Is a Mystery*

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. The outer border contains the text "UNIVERSITAS KAMIKAKUSAI" at the top and "SOGIJAPRANATA" at the bottom, both in a stylized font. Inside the shield is a circular emblem featuring a book at the base, a torch rising from it, and a figure above. The central text is overlaid on this circular emblem.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

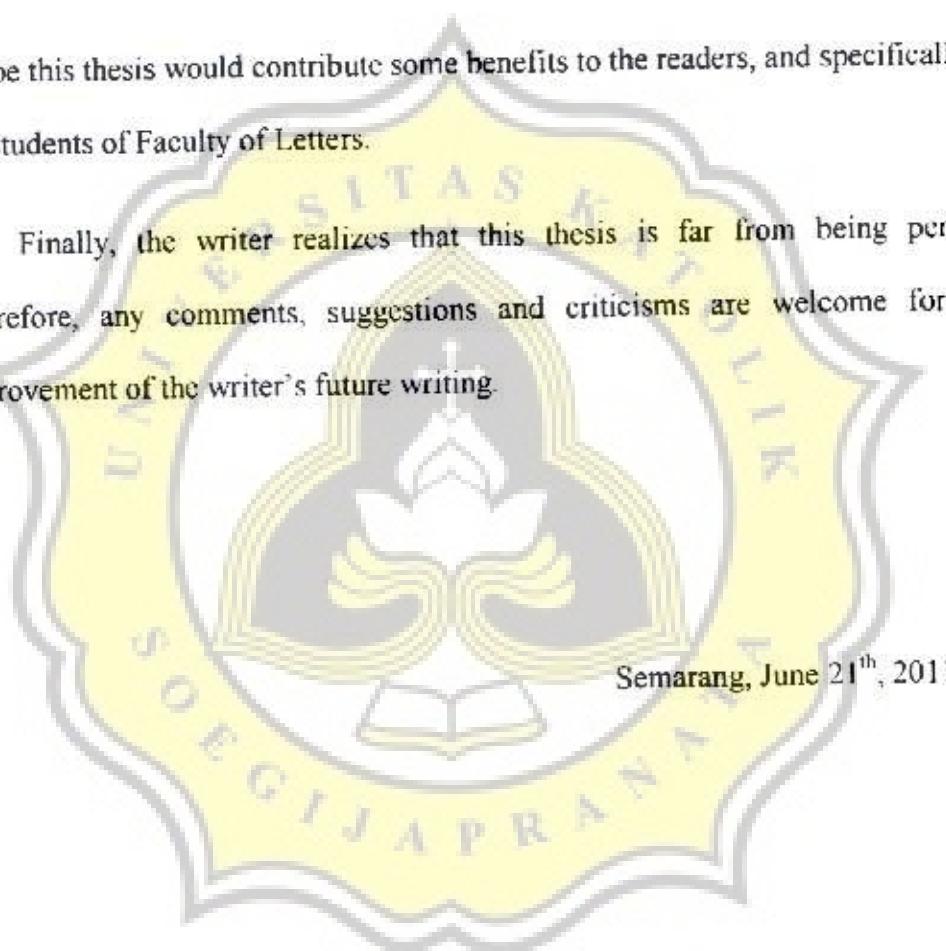
First of all, I would like to express my thankfulness towards Allah SWT the creator of the universe, for the blessing and guidance that Allah has given to me. In this opportunity, I also would like to thank to the following people who have given their time and support for this thesis.

1. My father, T.S. Urawan, S.Pd and also my mother S. Tresnaningsih, for their prayers, patience and motivation.
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10. And other people whom I cannot mention one by one.

I hope this thesis would contribute some benefits to the readers, and specifically to the students of Faculty of Letters.

Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, any comments, suggestions and criticisms are welcome for the improvement of the writer's future writing.



The writer

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ABSTRACT

This study makes use of a novel telling about four girls who study in Riyadh. They want to enjoy their puberty, but there are a lot of rules and traditions in that city. Mostly people in there are the Muslim. The traditions are influenced by Islam religion. They follow what is written in Al- Qur'an. In this thesis, the writer focuses on one of the characters, Mashaal Al Abdurrahman or Michele. She is a half Arab-American because her father comes from Arab and her mother comes from America. This thesis has a purpose to know the reason of Michele's search for her cultural identity. In this case, the writer only focuses on Michele's experience as a sample of the character who tries to find out a cultural identity in life. Searching a cultural identity is important. If people can find a cultural identity, then they can make a decision for their life. In order to analyze that character, the writer uses library research and Post Colonialism approach. Basically, this approach offers a discussion about cultural differences. In this case, the study focuses on the cultural differences between the West and the East. The West refers to America and the East refers to Arab. In order to support this approach, the writer uses Orientalism theory. This theory offers the West's understanding of the East. In that theory there is a struggle for superiority between the West and the East. In the discussion, the family background of Michele, the environment where Michele lives and Michele's experience are also analyzed. The study indicates that Michele tries to search for a cultural identity because people around her treat her differently. One of the causes is American culture that gives more influence towards Michele's character.

ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini, penulis menganalisa sebuah novel yang menceritakan empat orang gadis yang belajar di Riyad. Empat orang gadis ini ingin menikmati masa puber mereka, tetapi di kota tersebut terdapat beberapa peraturan dan tradisi. Peraturan dan tradisi tersebut dipengaruhi oleh agama Islam. Masyarakat di sana mengikuti apa yang telah tertulis di Al-Qur'an. Dalam skripsi ini penulis fokus pada salah satu karakter, yaitu Mashael Al Abdurrahman atau Michele. Dia seorang keturunan Arab dan Amerika. Ayahnya berasal dari Arab dan ibunya berasal dari Amerika. Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui alasan Michele "cultural identity" dalam kehidupannya. Cakupan skripsi ini adalah fokus pada pengalaman di karakter Michele sebagai karakter yang sedang mencari sebuah jati diri dalam hidupnya. Pencarian jati diri seseorang sangatlah penting, karena jika seseorang dapat menemukan jati dirinya, maka mereka dapat menentukan jalan hidupnya. Untuk menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan penelitian pustaka dan menggunakan pendekatan Post Colonialism. Pada dasarnya pendekatan Post Colonialism adalah tentang perbedaan kebudayaan. Di dalam skripsi ini, penulis focus pada perbedaan budaya antara budaya Barat dan Budaya Timur. Budaya Barat dalam kasus ini adalah budaya Amerika dan budaya Timur adalah budaya Arab. Untuk mendukung analisa tersebut, penulis menggunakan teori Orientalism. Teori tersebut tentang pandangan pihak Barat kepada pihak Timur. Dalam teori tersebut, terdapat sebuah perjuangan untuk sebuah kemenangan antara pihak Barat dan Timur. Dalam diskusi, penulis mengupas dari mulai latar belakang keluarga Michele yang berbeda dari keluarga lainnya, masyarakat di sekitar tempat dimana Michele tinggal dan pengalaman dalam kehidupan Michele. Dalam skripsi ini mengindikasikan bahwa Michele mencoba untuk mencari sebuah jati dirinya karena masyarakat sekitar Michele memperlakukan Michele dengan berbeda. Salah satu alasannya adalah Budaya Amerika lebih melekat di dalam diri Michele.