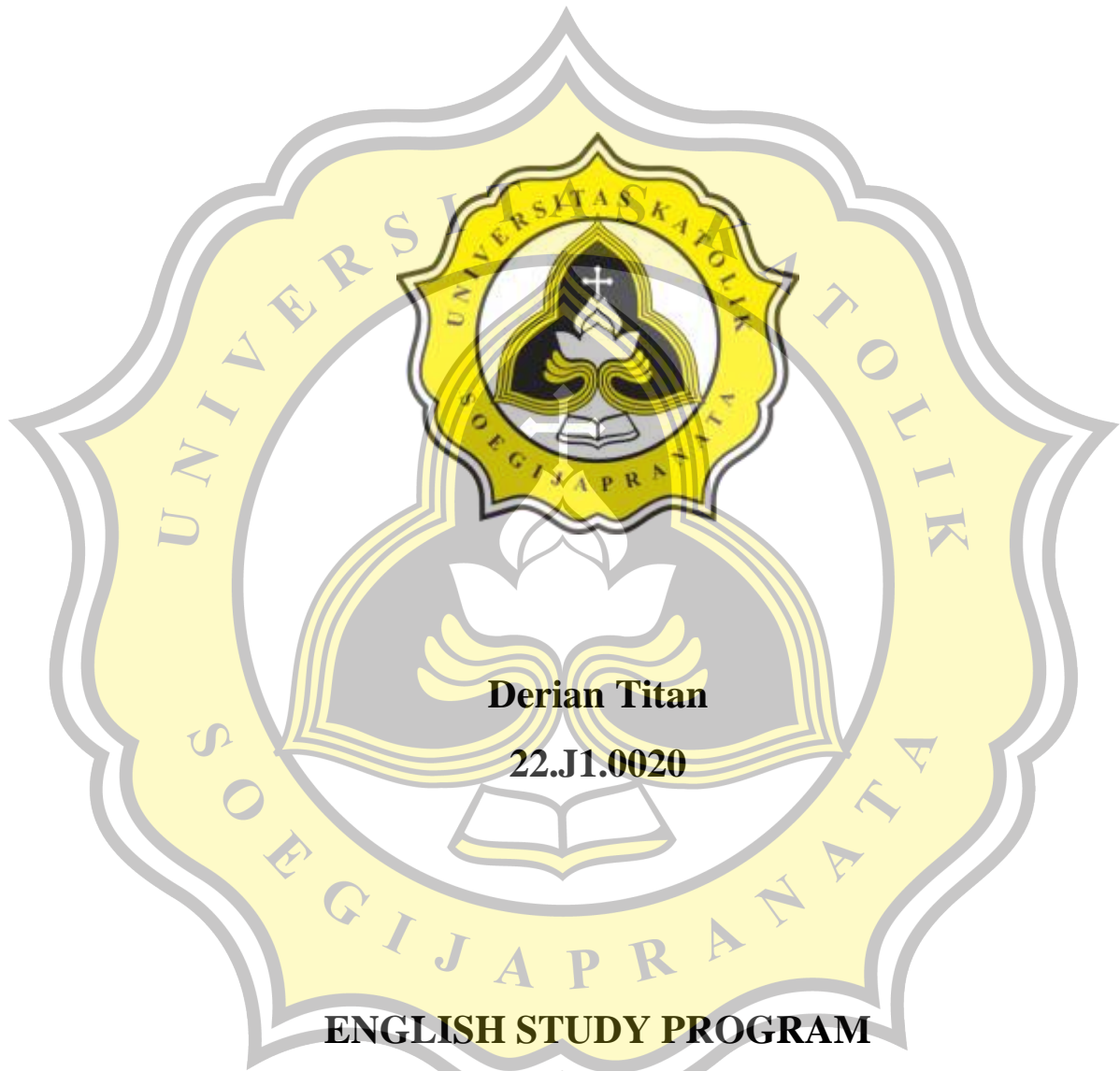


**CHINESE PROTESTANT GEN Z'S PERSPECTIVES
ON THE CENG BENG FESTIVAL IN AMBARAWA**



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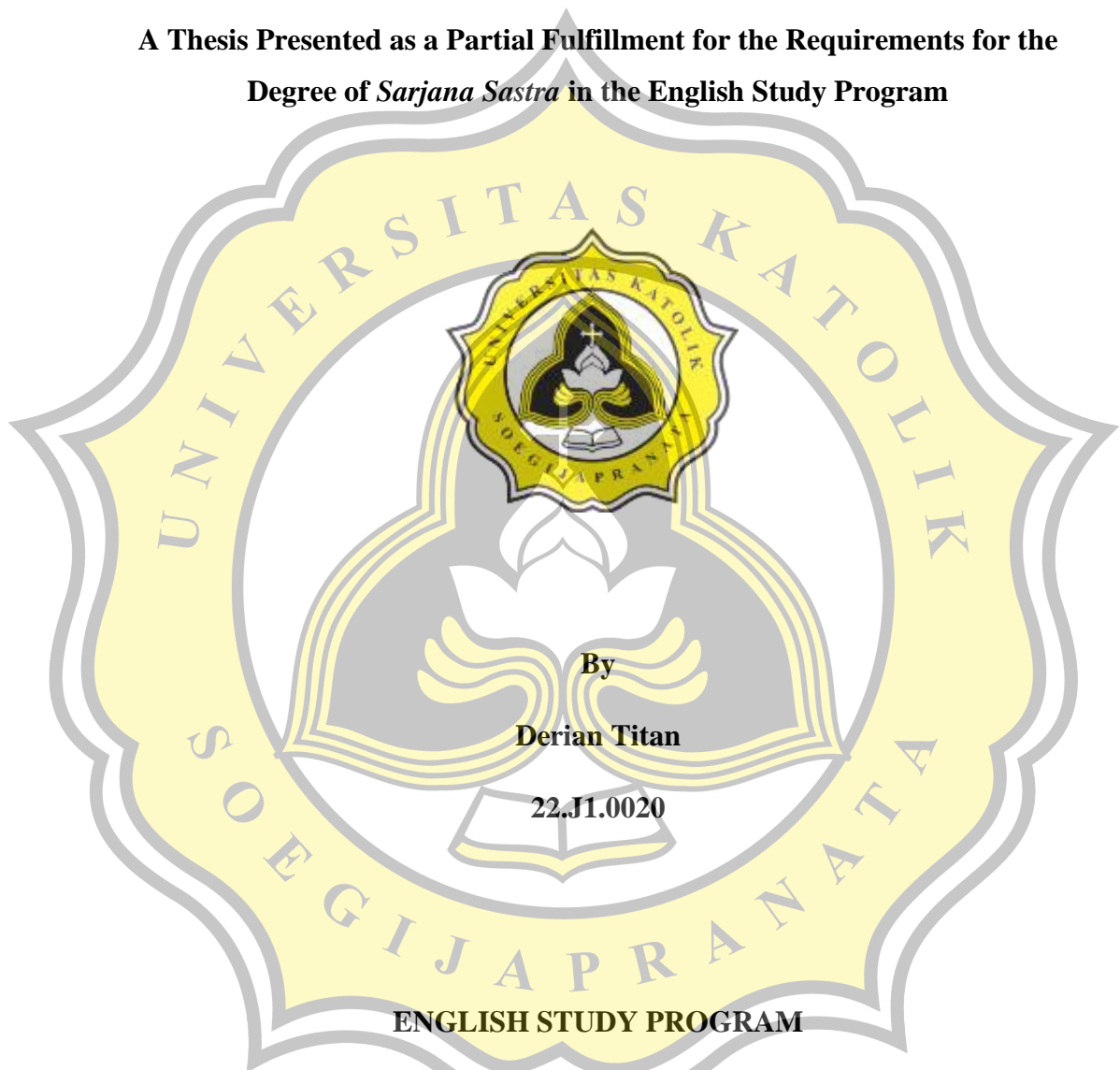
SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

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**CHINESE PROTESTANT GEN Z'S PERSPECTIVES
ON THE CENG BENG FESTIVAL IN AMBARAWA**

**A Thesis Presented as a Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements for the
Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* in the English Study Program**



By

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22.J1.0020

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the perceptions of Chinese Christian Generation Z individuals in Ambarawa toward the Ceng Beng Festival, a traditional Chinese ancestral worship practice. The research aims to understand how this generation, raised in a modern and religiously diverse environment, interprets and negotiates their cultural heritage in light of their Christian beliefs. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through semi-structured interviews with selected informants and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings reveal a pattern of selective participation among Gen Z respondents: while they acknowledge Ceng Beng as a valuable cultural tradition that preserves family respect and unity, they consciously avoid the ritualistic or spiritual elements that conflict with their faith. Many interpret the festival as an opportunity for family gathering rather than religious devotion. The study highlights how modernization, education, and religious identity contribute to shaping a hybrid cultural understanding among Chinese Christian youth. Ultimately, the research underscores the ongoing negotiation between faith and tradition in the construction of Gen Z's cultural-religious identity in contemporary Indonesia.



ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi persepsi generasi Z Tionghoa Kristen di Ambarawa terhadap Festival Ceng Beng, yaitu tradisi Tionghoa yang berhubungan dengan penghormatan leluhur. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk memahami bagaimana generasi ini, yang tumbuh di lingkungan modern dan beragam secara agama, memaknai serta menegosiasikan warisan budaya mereka dalam konteks kepercayaan Kristen. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara semi-terstruktur dan dianalisis menggunakan analisis tematik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya pola partisipasi selektif di antara responden Gen Z: mereka mengakui Ceng Beng sebagai tradisi budaya yang penting untuk menjaga penghormatan dan kebersamaan keluarga, namun secara sadar menghindari unsur-unsur ritual atau spiritual yang bertentangan dengan iman mereka. Banyak yang memandang festival ini sebagai momen kebersamaan keluarga, bukan kegiatan keagamaan. Penelitian ini menyoroti peran modernisasi, pendidikan, dan identitas keagamaan dalam membentuk pemahaman budaya hibrida di kalangan pemuda Tionghoa Kristen. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini menegaskan adanya negosiasi antara iman dan tradisi dalam pembentukan identitas budaya-keagamaan Gen Z di Indonesia masa kini.

