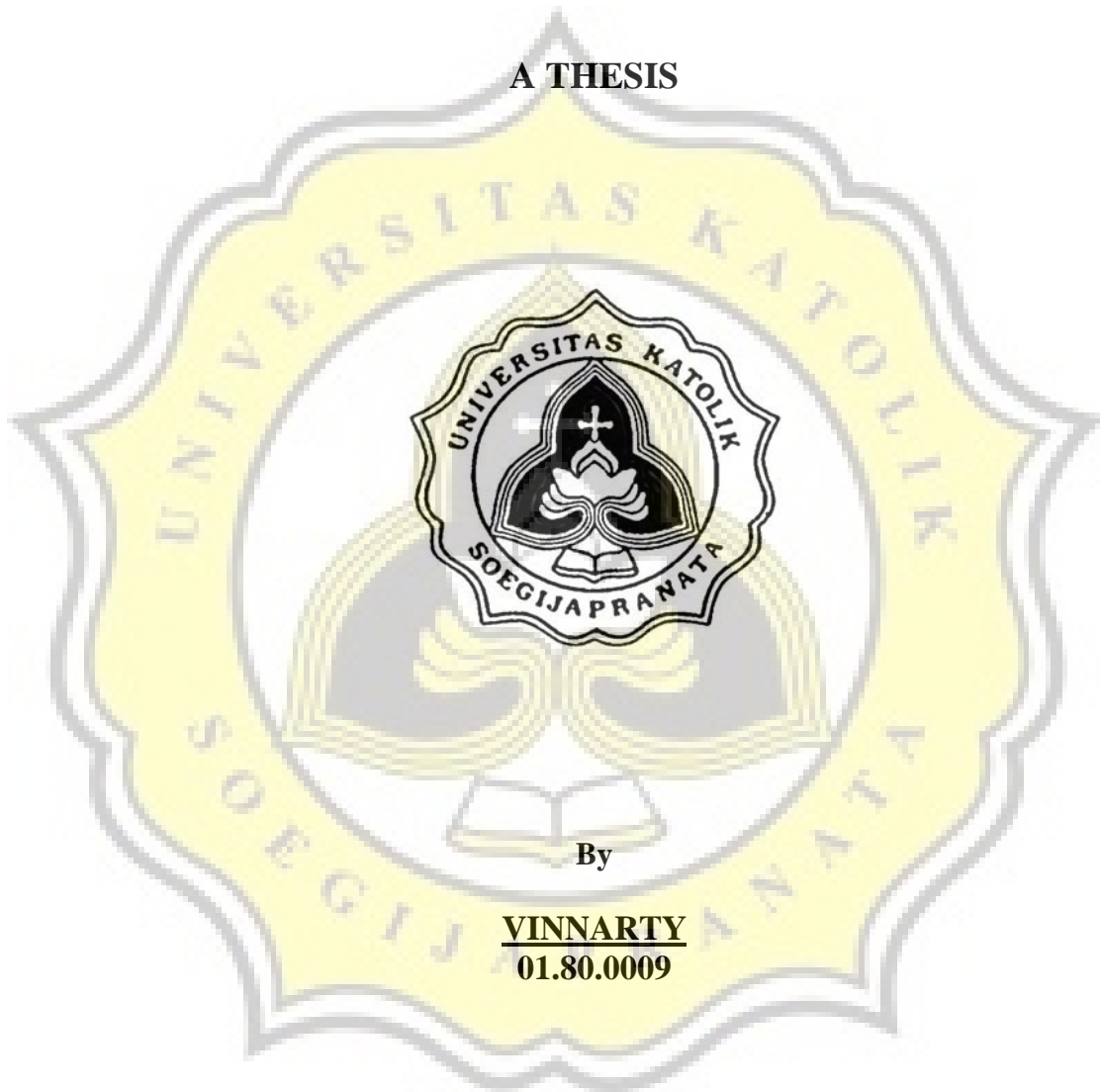


**THE INFLUENCE OF WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLASS TOWARD  
THEIR LIVES IN JANE AUSTEN'S EMMA**

**A THESIS**



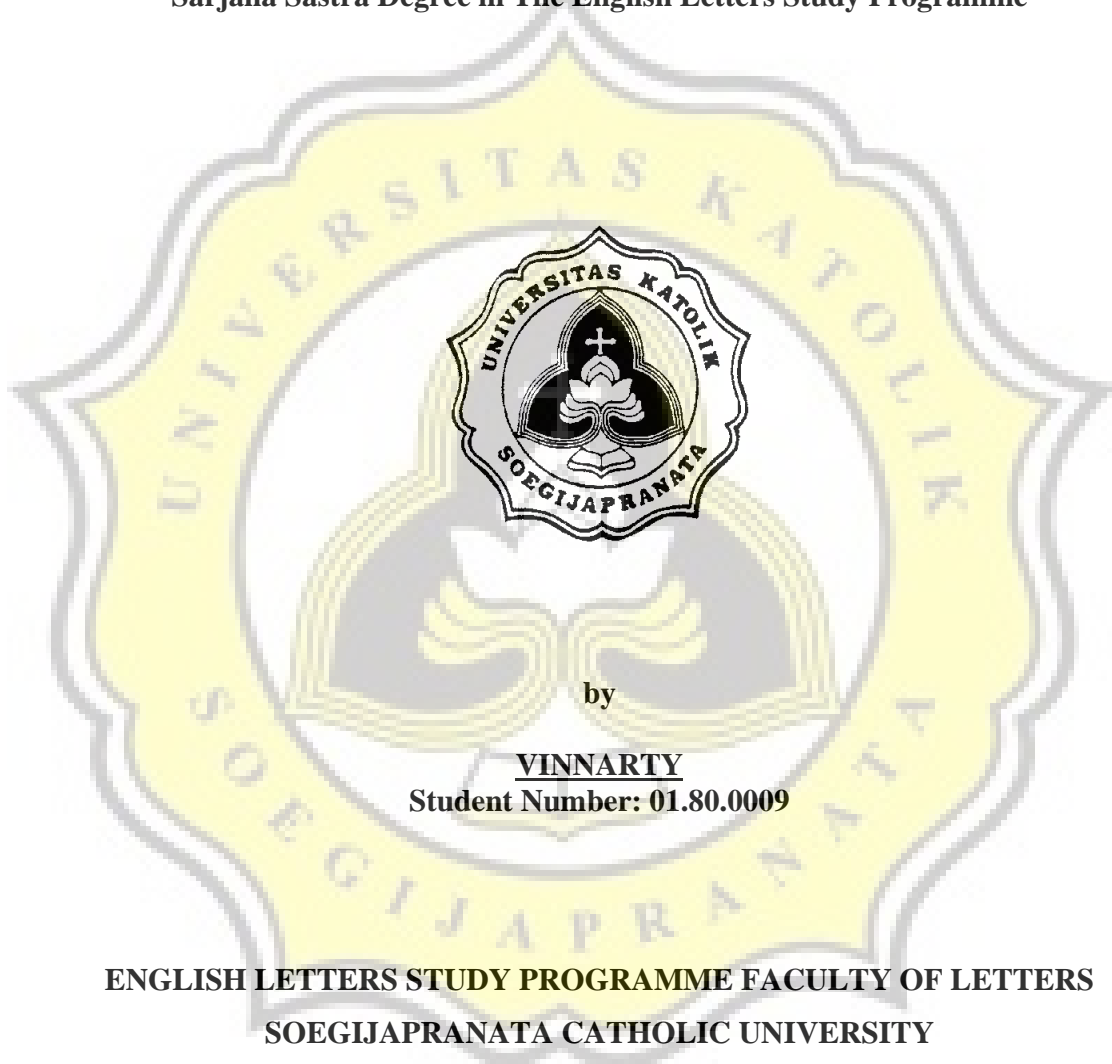
By

**VINNARTY**  
**01.80.0009**

**ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
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SEMARANG  
2006**

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**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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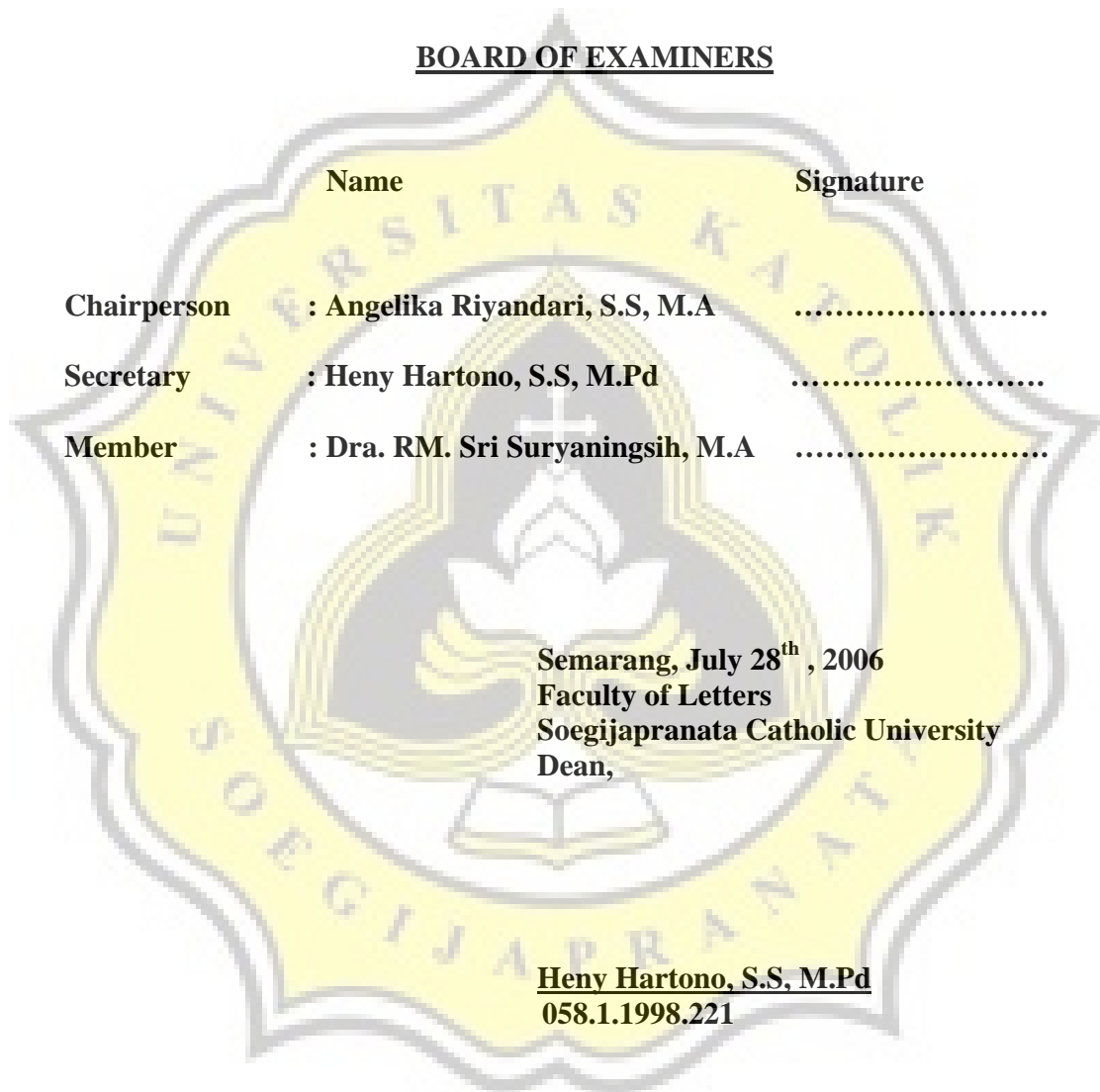
July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Heny Hartono, S.S, M.Pd  
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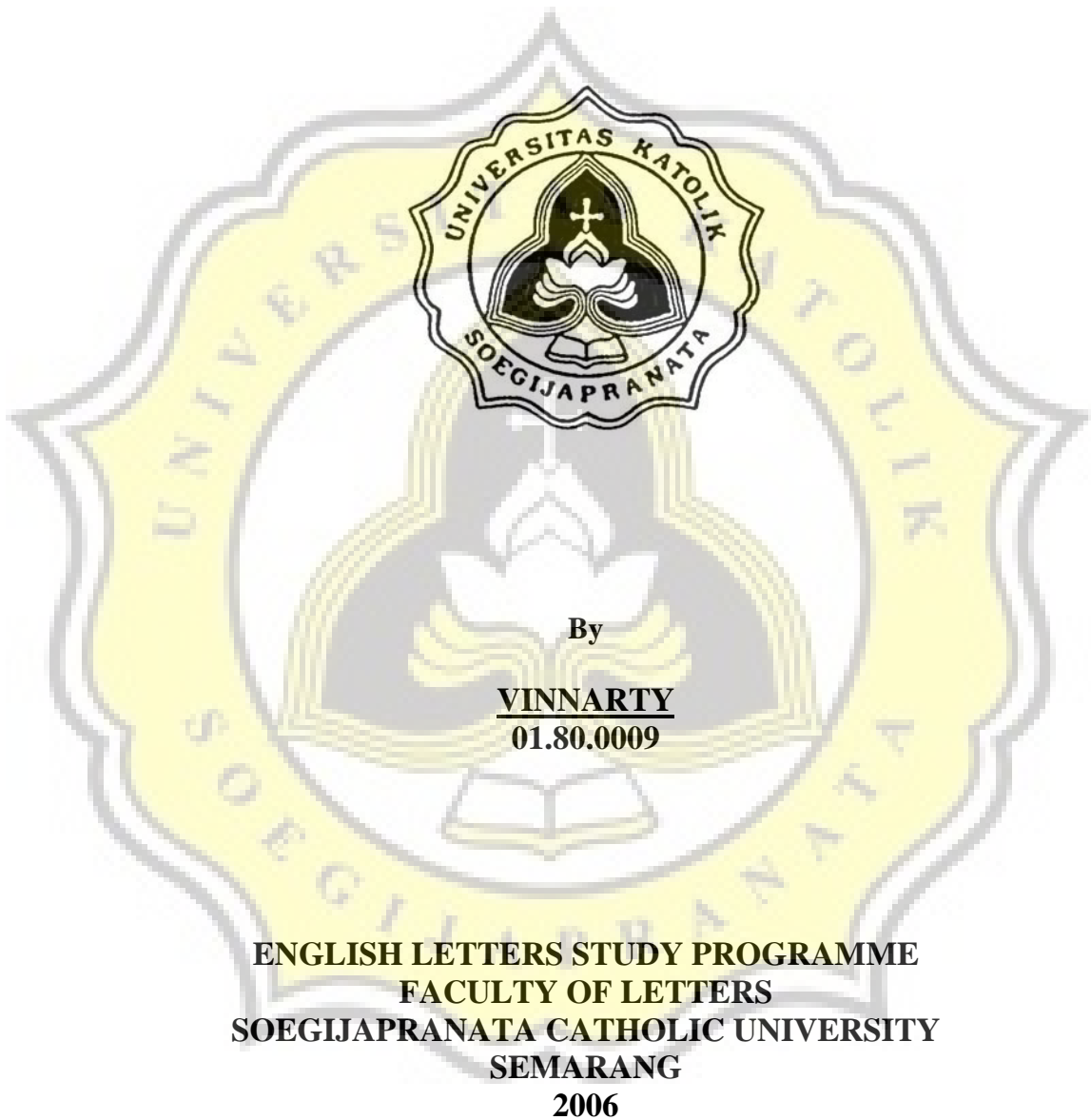
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## ABSTRACT

This study is attempting to discuss how women's social class in the 18<sup>th</sup> century affects their lives in the society. In analyzing the women's condition in the era, the writer uses Jane Austen's *Emma* to study the character of Emma Woodhouse. The writer uses the sociological approach to analyze the novel. It is used to analyze the influence of social condition to someone's life especially the women's life. This study highlights women's condition in the 18<sup>th</sup> century society where there was a class division that created limitation for women coming from lower class society. The limitation includes limited education that resulted in limited opportunity for the women to get jobs. For the women who were able to get enough education, they tried to be private teachers. For others, they tried to make money by being lady companion. However, those two jobs were not regarded as potential jobs by the society. As a result, the women in the era, especially those who came from the lower class society, tended to seek financial and future security.

The tendency of women coming from the lower class society to seek financial and future secure was triggered by the condition that did not allow them to have better education. Moreover, the women in the era also did not get inheritance. In order to get financial and future security, the women depended on their relatives to support their lives. Nevertheless, there was an obvious way taken by the women to get financial and future security. They married to rich man. In this study, the writer discussed the distinctive characters of Emma Woodhouse. She was a woman in the 18<sup>th</sup> century society who acted against the women's role in the era. When the other women were trying to seek financial and future security, Emma took another role as a match-maker. It shows that Emma was not affected by the value of the society in the era. Instead, she determined her own life by rejecting the common roles for women of 18<sup>th</sup> century society: being housewives, mothers and householders.

## ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari pembelajaran ini adalah untuk membahas mengenai kelas sosial wanita di abad ke 18 yang mempengaruhi kehidupan mereka dalam masyarakat masa itu. Penulis menganalisa karakter Emma Woodhouse dalam novel Jane Austen, *Emma*. Penulis menggunakan Pendekatan Sosiologi untuk menganalisa novel ini. Pendekatan ini digunakan untuk menganalisa pengaruh kondisi sosial terhadap kehidupan seseorang terutama bagi para wanita. Garis besar dari pembelajaran ini adalah tentang kondisi wanita di abad ke 18 dimana terdapat pembagian kelas masyarakat yang menimbulkan berbagai pembatasan bagi para wanita yang berasal dari masyarakat kelas bawah. Pembatasan tersebut termasuk pembatasan dalam bidang pendidikan yang juga menyebabkan pembatasan kesempatan kerja. Bagi para wanita yang mendapatkan pendidikan yang cukup mereka berusaha menjadi guru-guru privat, sementara yang lain berusaha bekerja dengan menjadi lady companion. Namun masyarakat pada masa itu menganggap kedua pekerjaan tersebut sebagai pekerjaan yang tidak berpotensi. Oleh karena itu para wanita, khususnya mereka yang berasal dari golongan kelas bawah, cenderung mencari keamanan dalam keuangan dan masa depan mereka.

Kecenderungan wanita-wanita tersebut untuk mencari rasa aman dalam keuangan dan masa depan dipicu oleh kondisi wanita pada masa itu yang tidak memungkinkan mereka untuk mendapatkan pendidikan yang lebih baik. Terlebih lagi, wanita di masa itu tidak mendapatkan warisan. Mereka bergantung pada saudara yang bisa menyokong kehidupan mereka. Tetapi cara yang paling jelas yang kemudian diambil oleh para wanita tersebut untuk mendapatkan rasa aman dalam keuangan dan masa depan adalah dengan menikahi pria kaya. Penulis mendiskusikan karakter Emma Woodhouse yang berbeda dari karakter wanita kebanyakan pada masa itu. Ketika wanita-wanita lain mencoba mencari rasa aman dalam keuangan dan masa depan dengan menikahi pria kaya, Emma Woodhouse mengambil peranan lain sebagai makcomblang. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa Emma Woodhouse tidak dipengaruhi oleh nilai-nilai dalam masyarakat melainkan menentukan jalan hidupnya sendiri dengan menolak peranan umum wanita pada masa itu: menjadi isteri, ibu, ibu rumah tangga.

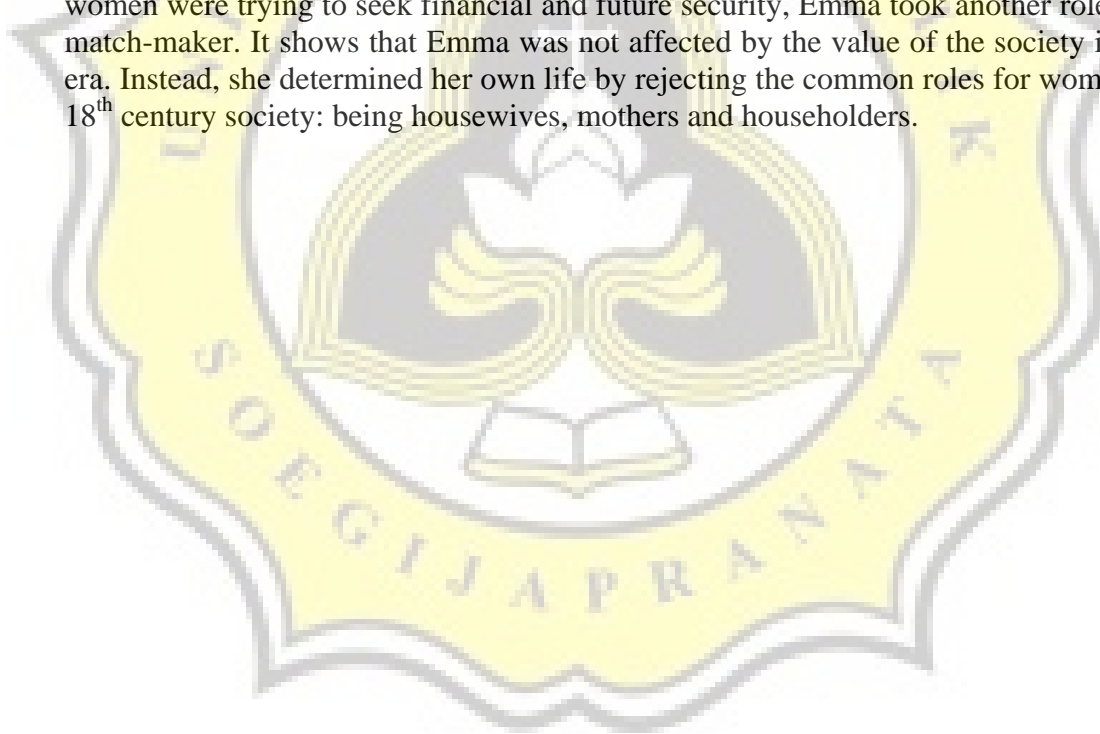
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