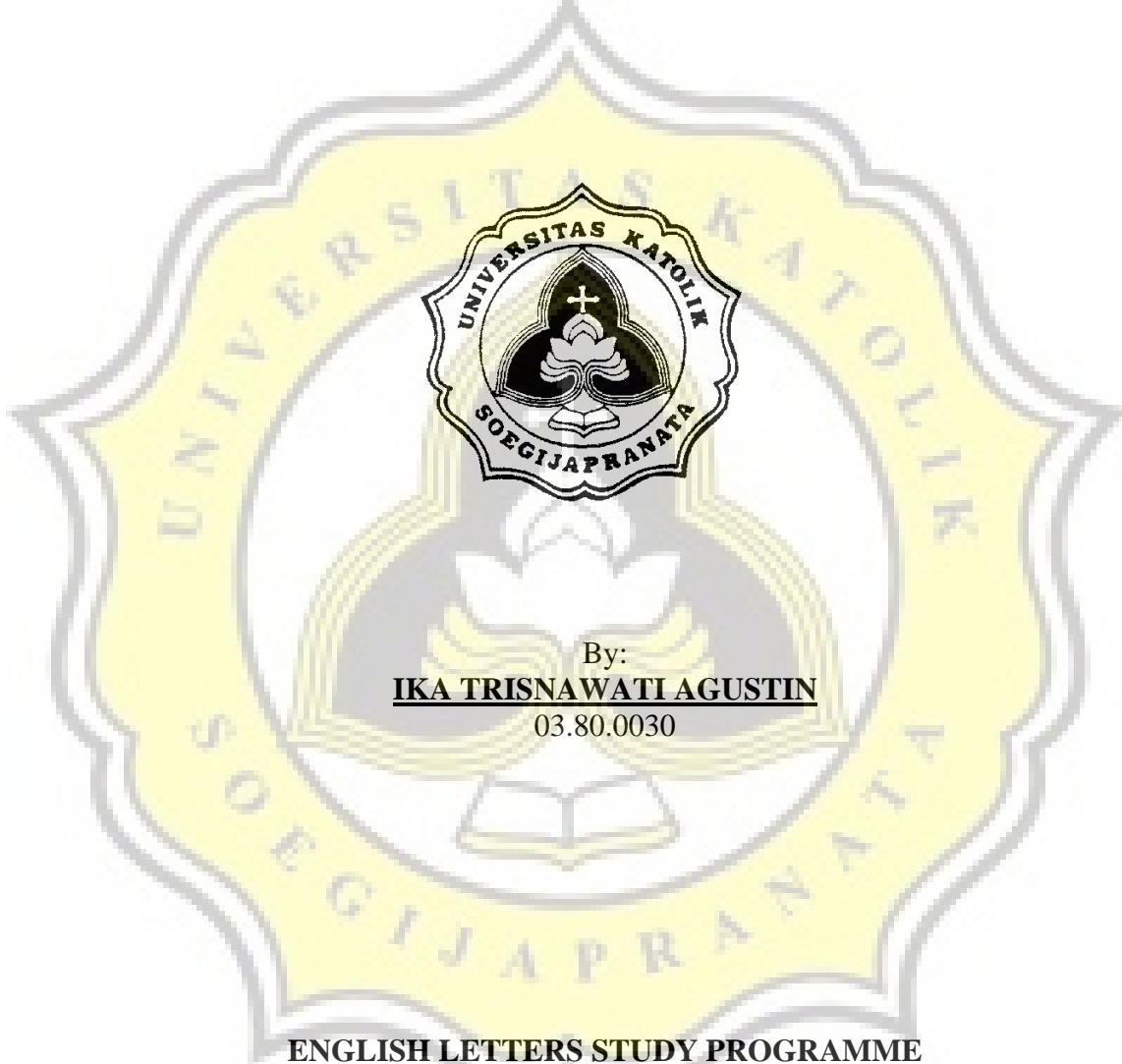


**THE REFLECTION OF LOW CLASS SOCIETY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S
THE PEARL: MARXIST CRITICISM**

A thesis



By:
IKA TRISNAWATI AGUSTIN
03.80.0030

**ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAMME
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
SEMARANG
2008**

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A thesis presented as partial fulfillment of requirements to obtain the Sarjana
Sastra Degree in English Letters Study Programme

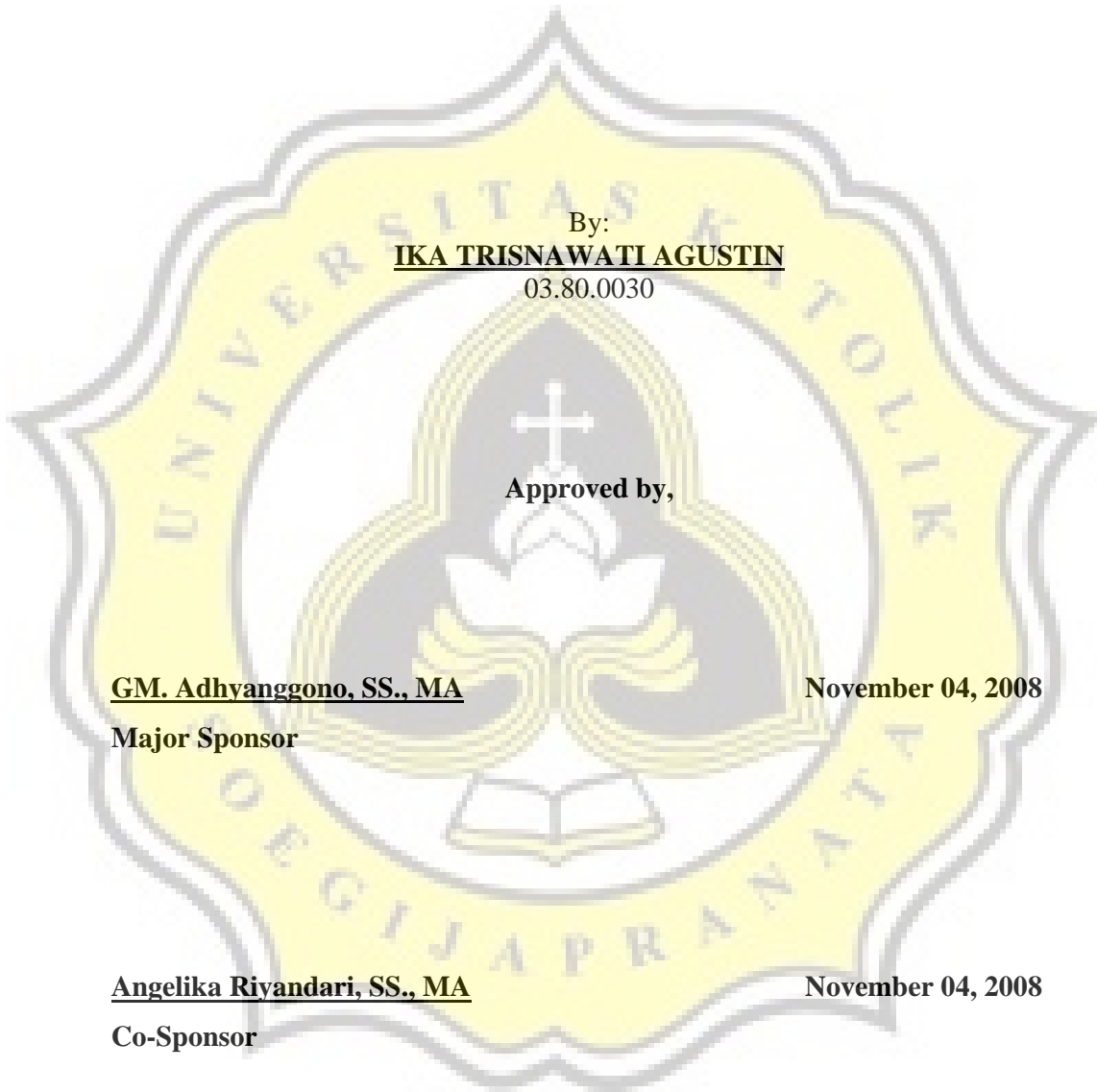


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**A Thesis defended in front of the Board of Examiners
On September 24, 2008 and declared acceptable**

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Faculty of Letters
Soegijapranata Catholic University
Dean,**

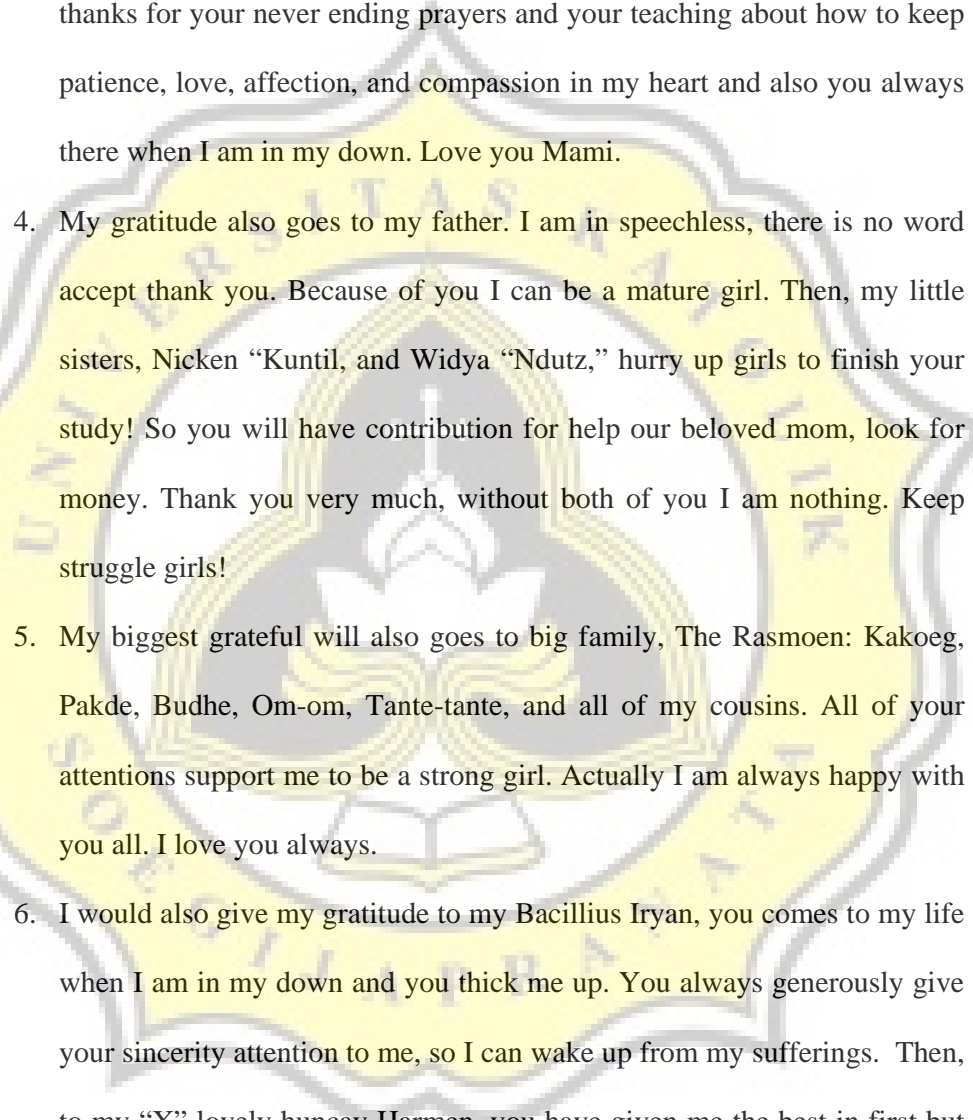
**Henry Hartono, SS., M.Pd
NPP. 058.1.1998.221**

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- 
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Semarang, October, 2008

Ika Trisnawati Agustin

*“Imagination is everything
It is the preview of Life Attraction”*

(Albert Einstein)

*“Take the first Step in Faith you don't have to
see the whole staircase, just take the first Step”*

(Martin Luther King Jr.)



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ABSTRACT

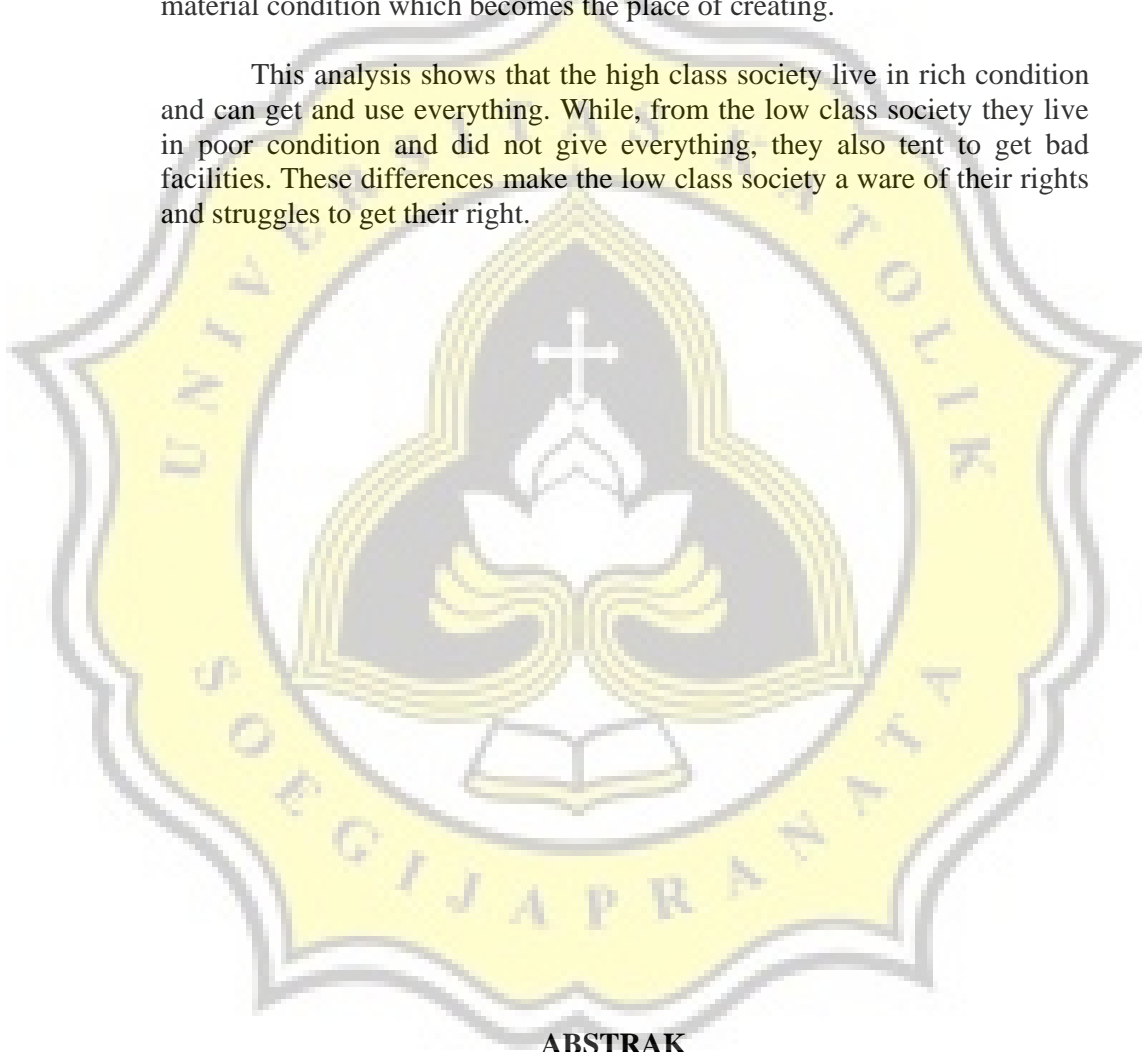
The pearl is a story about the struggle of low class people represented by Kino which shows the economy condition of the main

character who lives in poor condition and gets so many discriminations, because he is a low class citizen.

Kino and his family's class reflect as an example of poor Indian family, gets so many unfair treatments from the high class society.

To analyze the social problem, the writer uses Marxist criticism. In this novel there are class differences between the life of the high class and the low class society. Marxist criticism is a sociological approach which concerns that art work is a historical result and it can be analyze from the material condition which becomes the place of creating.

This analysis shows that the high class society live in rich condition and can get and use everything. While, from the low class society they live in poor condition and did not give everything, they also tent to get bad facilities. These differences make the low class society a ware of their rights and struggles to get their right.



ABSTRAK

Cerita *The pearl* adalah tentang perjuangan masyarakat kelas bawah yang menampilkan Kino sebagai tokoh utama, novel tersebut menceritakan tentang kondisi perekonomian pada Kino yang kehidupannya miskin dan

banyak mengalami berbagai macam diskriminasi, yang di sebabkan karena ia termasuk dari golongan kelas bawah.

Dalam cerita *The Pearl* terjadi adanya perbedaan kelas sosial antara golongan kelas bawah dengan golongan kelas atas, karena perbedaan tersebut timbul suatu masalah diantara dua kelas tersebut. Dimana kelas atas cenderung mendapatkan fasilitas – fasilitas yang memadai sedangkan pada masyarakat kelas bawah mengalami ketidakadilan dalam mendapatkan pelayanan, contohnya pada kehidupan keluarga Kino yang di gambarkan sebagai salah satu dari keluarga Indian yang miskin, dimana ia menerima ketidakadilan dalam mendapatkan pelayanan dari masyarakat kelas atas. Kelas bawah tidak mendapatkan kesejahteraan sosial dari pemerintah dan masyarakat golongan tersebut cenderung di remehkan karena mereka tidak mempunyai uang yang cukup untuk memenuhi kebutuhan mereka.

Untuk menganalisa masalah sosial tersebut, penulis menggunakan pendekatan Marxisme dimana dalam novel tersebut terjadi perbedaan tajam antara kehidupan masyarakat kelas atas dengan masyarakat kelas bawah. Pendekatan Marxisme merupakan pendekatan sosiologis terhadap karya sastra yang memandang karya seni sebagai hasil sejarah yang dapat dianalisa dengan melihat dari kondisi materi yang menjadi tempat terbentuknya.

Analisa ini menunjukkan bahwa golongan masyarakat kelas atas hidup dalam kemewahan dimana mereka bisa mendapatkan dan memanfaatkan fasilitas yang ada. Sedangkan bagi masyarakat kelas bawah mereka hidup dalam serba kekurangan dan cenderung tidak mendapatkan fasilitas yang tidak memadai, perbedaan ini yang mendorong masyarakat kelas bawah bangkit untuk memperjuangkan hak – hak mereka.