

**THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SHOWGIRL IN TAYLOR  
SWIFT'S *THE LIFE OF A SHOWGIRL* ALBUM**



*Intelligentia - Dignitas*

**THESIS**

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Bachelor's  
Degree of Literature in English Literature Study Program

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAMME**

**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS**

**UNIVERSITAS NEGERI JAKARTA**

**2026**

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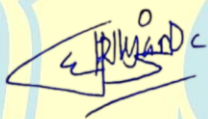
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## ABSTRAK

**Oktaliani, Nabila Ayu. 2026. *The Representation of the Showgirl in Taylor Swift's The Life of a Showgirl Album*. Skripsi: Jakarta, Indonesia. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.**

Penelitian ini mengkaji representasi showgirl dalam album *The Life of a Showgirl* karya Taylor Swift melalui sistem transitivitas Halliday. Analisis penelitian ini menggunakan Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) sebagai kerangka analisis linguistik dan Teori Representasi Stuart Hall (1997) sebagai kerangka interpretasi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menganalisis 441 klausa yang diambil dari dua belas lagu dalam album tersebut. Seluruh data diklasifikasikan ke dalam enam tipe proses, yaitu material, relasional, mental, verbal, behavioral, dan eksistensial. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa proses material merupakan tipe proses yang paling dominan (33%), diikuti oleh proses relasional (31%) dan proses mental (19%), sedangkan proses verbal (9%) dan behavioral (8%) muncul dengan frekuensi yang lebih rendah, serta tidak ditemukan proses eksistensial (0%). Dominasi proses material, relasional, dan mental menunjukkan bahwa sosok showgirl direpresentasikan tidak hanya melalui tindakan, tetapi juga melalui identitas, status yang dilekatkan, keinginan, dan pengalaman batin. Hasil analisis juga menunjukkan bahwa pola-pola linguistik tersebut membangun representasi identitas yang terbentuk melalui proses yang terus-menerus, pengalaman yang memperlihatkan kemewahan dan kesulitan sebagai dua hal yang berlangsung secara bersamaan, serta ideologi yang menormalisasi keberhasilan yang tampak di ruang publik dan pengorbanan pribadi sebagai kondisi yang tidak terpisahkan dari kehidupan seorang showgirl. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa representasi showgirl dalam album *The Life of a Showgirl* dibangun melalui pilihan-pilihan linguistik yang mengonstruksi identitas, pengalaman, dan ideologi sebagai dimensi makna yang saling berkaitan, bukan sebagai makna yang telah ada sebelumnya, melainkan sebagai makna yang dikonstruksi melalui bahasa.

*Kata kunci:* representasi, transitivitas, Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik, identitas, ideologi, lirik lagu.

## ABSTRACT

**Oktaliani, Nabila Ayu. 2026. *The Representation of the Showgirl in Taylor Swift's The Life of a Showgirl Album*. Thesis: Jakarta, Indonesia. English Literature Study Programme, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.**

This study examines the representation of the showgirl in Taylor Swift's *The Life of a Showgirl* album through Halliday's transitivity system. The analysis draws on Halliday and Matthiessen's (2004) Systemic Functional Linguistics as the analytical framework and Hall's (1997) Theory of Representation as the interpretive framework. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, a total of 441 clauses from the twelve songs in the album were classified into six process types: Material, Relational, Mental, Verbal, Behavioural, and Existential. The findings reveal that Material processes are the most dominant (33%), followed by Relational (31%) and Mental (19%) processes, while Verbal (9%) and Behavioural (8%) processes occur less frequently, and Existential processes do not appear in the dataset (0%). The dominance of Material, Relational, and Mental processes indicates that the showgirl is represented not only through action but also through identity, attributed status, desire, and inner experience. The analysis further shows that these linguistic patterns construct an identity built through continuous exchange, an experience of glamour and hardship occurring simultaneously rather than separately, and an ideology in which visible success and private sacrifice are naturalized as inseparable conditions of the showgirl's existence. Therefore, the study demonstrates that the showgirl in *The Life of a Showgirl* is represented through linguistic choices that construct identity, experience, and ideology as interconnected dimensions of meaning, rather than as facts the lyrics simply report.

**Keywords:** representation, transitivity, Systemic Functional Linguistics, identity, ideology, song lyrics.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. All praise and gratitude be to Allah SWT for His endless blessings, mercy, guidance and strength throughout this journey that have enabled me to complete this thesis. By His permission, the writer was able to complete this undergraduate thesis that marks the end of the writer's undergraduate journey in the English Literature Study Program, Universitas Negeri Jakarta. Throughout the process of completing this thesis, the writer has been fortunate to receive endless support, guidance, encouragement, kindness, and prayers from many remarkable people. Therefore, the writer would like to express sincere gratitude to:

1. Dr. Ellita Permata Widjayanti, M.A., as the Head of the English Literature Study Program, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.
2. Diyantari, M.App.Ling., as academic advisor, for the guidance and support.
3. Narita Pratiwi, M.Hum., and Rahayu Purbasari, M.Hum., as the writer's thesis supervisors, for their suggestions, feedback, and guidance throughout the completion of this thesis.
4. The writer's beloved family, especially her mother, father, grandmother, and all members of the family, for their love, endless prayers, sacrifices, and unwavering support throughout every stage of the writer's life. Thank you for always believing in me and supporting me. I truly appreciate everything you have worked so hard to provide for me. Without your support, I would not have been able to reach this point. Also, lovingly remembers her late grandpas. Although they are no longer here to witness this achievement, the writer hopes they would be proud of this.

5. To all of my friends, thank you for filling these university years with memories; grateful to have this journey with all of you. Also, Talitha and Zelda, my middle school friends, for staying with me through the ups and downs of this journey.
6. Everyone who became part of the writer's daily journey, including lecturers, classmates, friends, *Asatidz*, *Asatidzah*, and even the people who unknowingly helped make each day easier. Thank you.
7. Last but not least, to myself. Thank you for choosing to keep going, even when everything felt overwhelming. Thank you for believing that every honest effort would eventually be rewarded. There were many moments filled with doubt, exhaustion, fear, and uncertainty, but through every challenge, the writer chose to trust Allah's plan and continue moving forward. This thesis is not only the result of hard work, but also a reminder that perseverance, sincerity, and faith can bring someone further than they ever imagined. The writer is proud of herself for making it to this point.

Finally, the writer would like to express heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey. Although not every name can be mentioned individually, every kindness, encouragement, and shared moment has been sincerely appreciated and will always be remembered.

Jakarta, June 2026



Nabila Ayu Oktaliani

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