

**GENDER REPRESENTATION IN LIANE MORIARTY'S *BIG LITTLE LIES*: A
CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**



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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of
“Sarjana Sastra”

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAM
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Tubagus Maulana Rifky Aditya

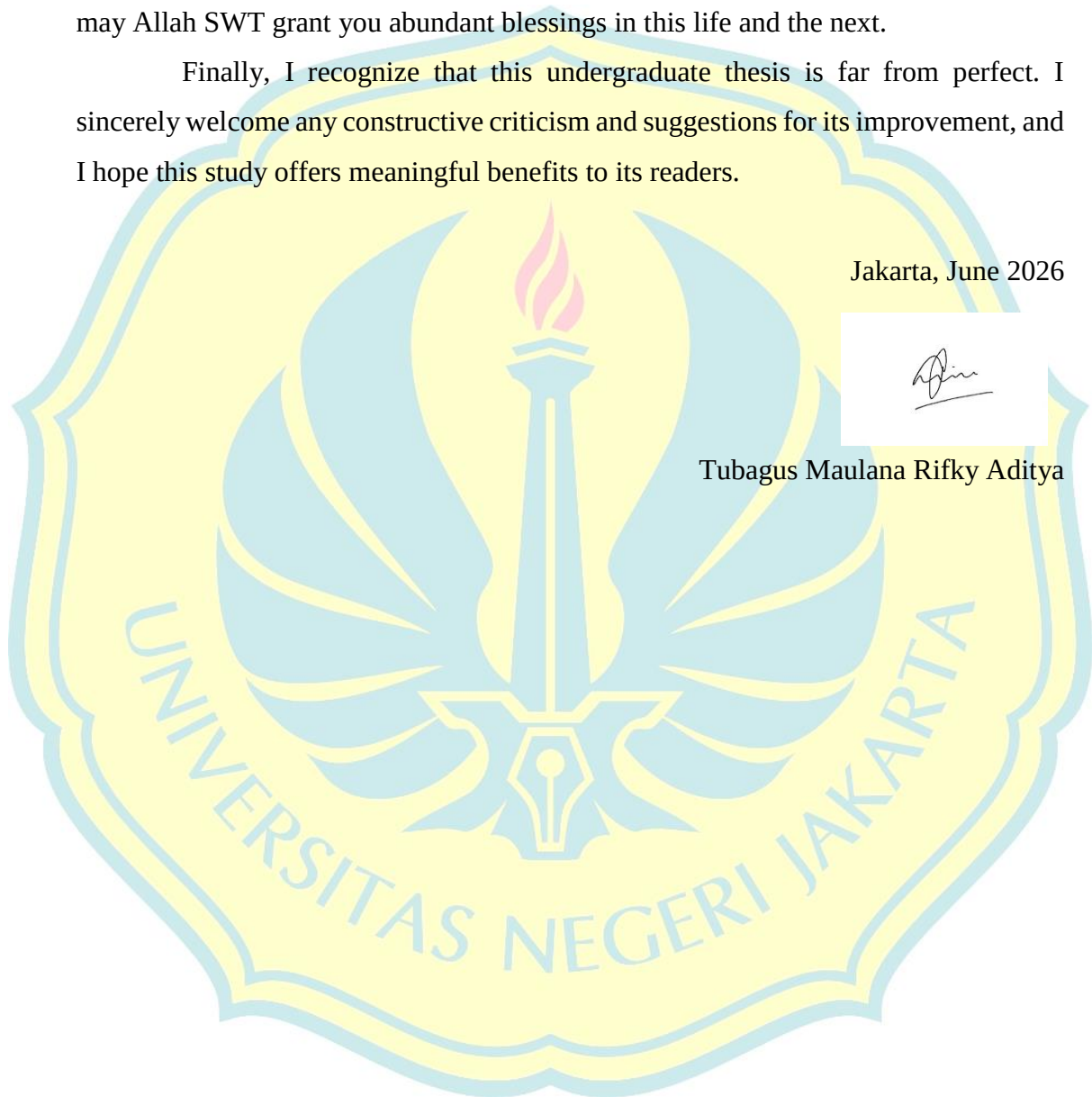


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ABSTRACT

Aditya, Tubagus Maulana Rifky. 2026. Gender Representation in Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies*: A Critical Discourse Analysis. Undergraduate Thesis: Jakarta, English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This study examines gender representation in Liane Moriarty's novel *Big Little Lies*. Using Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) focusing on the textual dimension integrated with the Textual Metafunction of Michael Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the research uncovers how gender roles, inequality, power dynamics, and ideologies are constructed and challenged within the text. Sylvia Walby's structural patriarchy framework is employed to anchor the sociological analysis. The findings demonstrated that female characters were predominantly associated with domestic, caregiving, and emotional roles as wives and mothers, whereas male characters occupied public, professional spheres as authoritative providers. At the linguistic level, female emotions were frequently foregrounded as Themes, while male acts of control or violence were delayed in the Rheme, subtly shifting immediate responsibility away from the perpetrators. However, a significant discursive shift occurred during the narrative climax, where the text explicitly positioned male violence as the Theme, assigning clear accountability. Ultimately, the study concludes that *Big Little Lies* does not merely reproduce traditional stereotypes but actively serves as a site of ideological critique that exposes the damaging consequences of patriarchal power and celebrates female solidarity.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Textual Metafunction, Gender Representation, *Big Little Lies*, Patriarchy.

ABSTRAK

Aditya, Tubagus Maulana Rifky. 2026. Representasi Gender dalam Novel *Big Little Lies* Karya Liane Moriarty: Analisis Wacana Kritis. Skripsi: Jakarta, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

Penelitian ini mengkaji representasi gender dalam novel *Big Little Lies* karya Liane Moriarty. Dengan menggunakan Analisis Wacana Kritis (AWK) model Norman Fairclough yang berfokus pada dimensi tekstual serta diintegrasikan dengan Metafungsi Tekstual dalam Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (LFS) oleh Michael Halliday, penelitian ini bertujuan mengungkap bagaimana peran gender, ketimpangan, dinamika kekuasaan, dan ideologi dikonstruksi serta digugat di dalam teks. Teori struktur patriarki Sylvia Walby digunakan sebagai kerangka sosiologis mendasar untuk memperkuat analisis ini. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa karakter perempuan secara dominan diasosiasikan dengan peran domestik, pengasuhan, dan emosional sebagai istri dan ibu, sementara karakter laki-laki mendominasi ranah publik dan profesional sebagai penyedia nafkah yang otoriter. Pada tataran linguistik, emosi perempuan sering kali ditonjolkan di awal sebagai *Theme*, sedangkan tindakan kontrol atau kekerasan laki-laki ditunda dalam *Rheme*, yang secara halus mengalihkan tanggung jawab langsung dari pelaku. Meskipun demikian, terjadi pergeseran wacana yang signifikan pada puncak cerita (klimaks); teks secara eksplisit menonjolkan kekerasan laki-laki dengan menempatkan pelaku sebagai *Theme* guna menegaskan akuntabilitas tindakan mereka. Pada akhirnya, penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa *Big Little Lies* tidak sekadar mereproduksi stereotip tradisional, melainkan aktif berfungsi sebagai kritik ideologis yang membongkar dampak buruk kekuasaan patriarki serta menyuarakan solidaritas perempuan.

Kata Kunci: Analisis Wacana Kritis, Metafungsi Tekstual, Representasi Gender, *Big Little Lies*, Patriarki.

