

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON HEROISM IN THE FILM

SUPERMAN (2025)



Intelligentia - Dignitas

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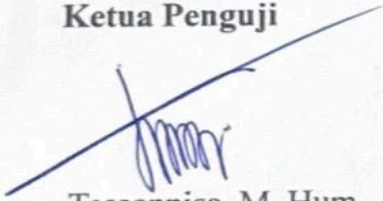
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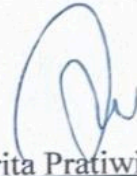
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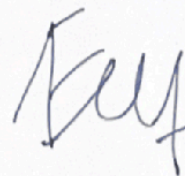
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M. Rifky Sastra Prawira Lendy Putra

ABSTRACT

M. Rifky Sastra Prawira Lendy Putra. 2026. A New Perspective on Heroism in the Film *Superman* (2025). Thesis: Jakarta, Department of English Literature, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This study examines how heroism is represented visually and narratively in the film *Superman* (2025), directed by James Gunn, and how the film reconstructs traditional views of heroism within a contemporary social context. Two research questions guide this study: (1) how heroism is shown both visually and narratively in *Superman* (2025), particularly through Superman's character development and his relationships with supporting characters; and (2) how the film reconstructs traditional views of heroism within a contemporary social context. This study employed a qualitative method with a descriptive-interpretative approach, drawing on Stuart Hall's theory of representation and Roland Barthes' semiotic framework, specifically the concepts of denotation, connotation, and myth, to analyze selected dialogues, character actions, and significant scenes from the film. The findings revealed that heroism in *Superman* (2025) is constructed through five interrelated dimensions: vulnerability and perseverance, moral responsibility over institutional compliance, universal compassion extended to all forms of life, heroism as a relational and collective quality rather than a solitary achievement, and heroism as symbolic presence. Furthermore, the film systematically reconstructs three dominant cultural myths of heroism: replacing physical invincibility with perseverance, replacing origin-based destiny with identity constituted through ethical choice, and replacing singular heroic agency with relational and collective heroism. These reconstructions converge in the film's central argument, most explicitly stated during Superman's final confrontation with Lex Luthor, that humanity itself is Superman's greatest strength. In conclusion, *Superman* (2025) offers a new perspective on heroism by reconceptualizing it as a human-centered, relationally grounded, and ethically constituted identity. The film demonstrates that heroism is not defined by extraordinary origin or physical invincibility, but earned through continuous moral choice, sustained through mutual care, and ultimately expressed through the values of compassion, empathy, and ethical responsibility.

Keywords: *heroism, representation, semiotics, Superman (2025), Stuart Hall, Roland Barthes*

ABSTRAK

M. Rifky Sastra Prawira Lendy Putra. 2026. A New Perspective on Heroism in the Film *Superman* (2025). Skripsi. Jakarta: Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana heroisme direpresentasikan secara visual dan naratif dalam film *Superman* (2025) yang disutradarai oleh James Gunn, serta bagaimana film tersebut merekonstruksi pandangan tradisional mengenai heroisme dalam konteks sosial kontemporer. Penelitian ini dipandu oleh dua rumusan masalah, yaitu: (1) bagaimana heroisme direpresentasikan secara visual dan naratif dalam *Superman* (2025), khususnya melalui perkembangan karakter Superman dan hubungannya dengan tokoh-tokoh pendukung, dan (2) bagaimana film tersebut merekonstruksi pandangan tradisional tentang heroisme dalam konteks sosial kontemporer. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif-interpretatif, yang didasarkan pada teori representasi Stuart Hall serta kerangka semiotika Roland Barthes, khususnya konsep denotasi, konotasi, dan mitos, untuk menganalisis dialog-dialog terpilih, tindakan tokoh, dan adegan-adegan penting dalam film. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa heroisme dalam *Superman* (2025) dibangun melalui lima dimensi yang saling berkaitan, yaitu kerentanan dan ketekunan, tanggung jawab moral yang lebih diutamakan daripada kepatuhan terhadap institusi, kasih sayang universal terhadap seluruh bentuk kehidupan, heroisme sebagai kualitas yang bersifat relasional dan kolektif, serta heroisme sebagai kehadiran simbolis. Selain itu, film ini secara sistematis merekonstruksi tiga mitos budaya dominan mengenai heroisme, yaitu menggantikan konsep ketakterkalahkan fisik dengan ketekunan, menggantikan takdir yang ditentukan oleh asal-usul dengan identitas yang dibentuk melalui pilihan etis, serta menggantikan konsep pahlawan tunggal dengan heroisme yang bersifat relasional dan kolektif. Ketiga rekonstruksi tersebut berpuncak pada gagasan utama film yang secara eksplisit disampaikan dalam konfrontasi terakhir antara Superman dan Lex Luthor, bahwa kemanusiaan merupakan kekuatan terbesar Superman. Dengan demikian, *Superman* (2025) menawarkan perspektif baru mengenai heroisme sebagai identitas yang berpusat pada nilai-nilai kemanusiaan, dibangun melalui hubungan dengan orang lain, dan dibentuk oleh pilihan-pilihan etis. Film ini menunjukkan bahwa heroisme tidak ditentukan oleh asal-usul luar biasa maupun ketakterkalahkan fisik, melainkan diperoleh melalui pilihan moral yang berkelanjutan, dipelihara melalui kepedulian timbal balik, dan diwujudkan melalui nilai-nilai kasih sayang, empati, serta tanggung jawab etis.

Kata kunci: *heroisme, representasi, semiotika, Superman (2025), Stuart Hall, Roland Barthes.*

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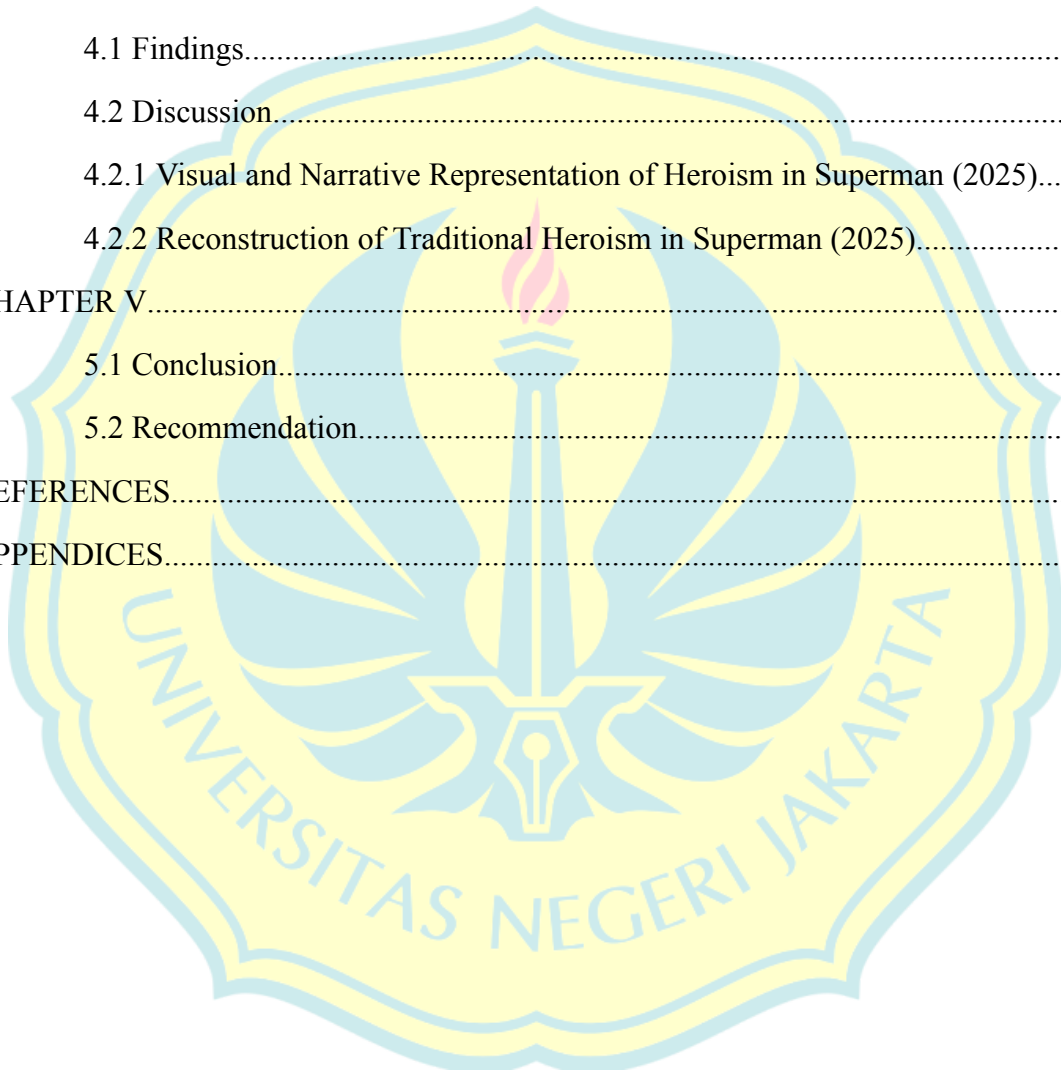


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