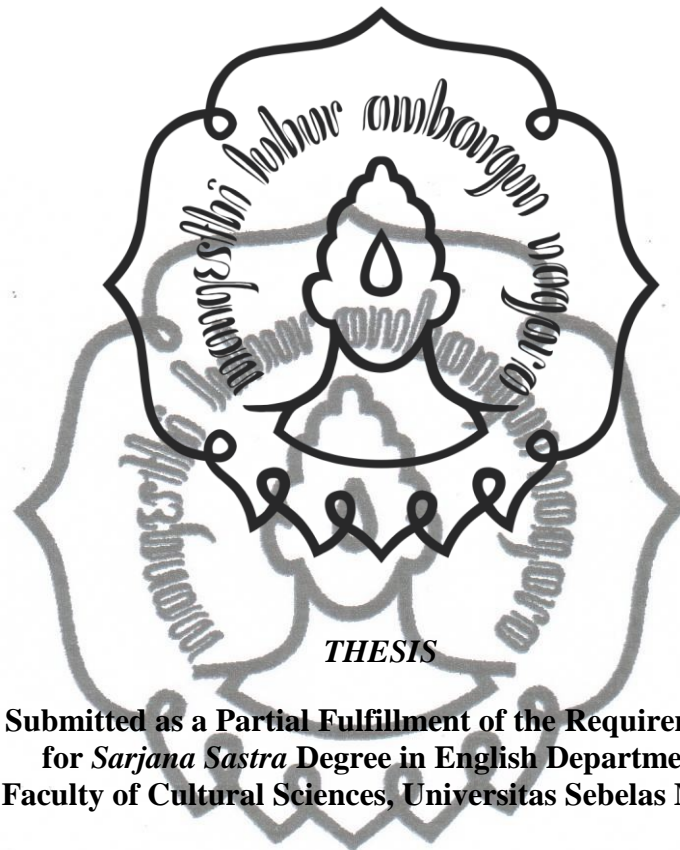


**Woman Subjectivity: Maternal Power
in *Room* by Emma Donoghue**



THESIS

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree in English Department,
Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret**

By:

Ifa Nabila

C0313023

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS SEBELAS MARET**

2018

THESIS APPROVAL

Woman Subjectivity: Maternal Power
in *Room* by Emma Donoghue

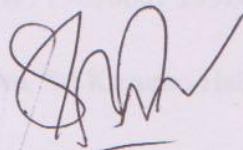
By:

Ifa Nabila

C0313023

Approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners,
Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Universitas Sebelas Maret

Thesis Supervisor



Dra. Sri Kusumo Habsari, M.Hum, Ph.D.
NIP. 19670323 199512 2001

Head of English Department



Drs. Agus Hari Wibowo, M.A., Ph. D.
NIP. 19670830 199302 1001

**Woman Subjectivity: Maternal Power
in *Room* by Emma Donoghue**

By:

Ifa Nabila

C0313023

Accepted and Approved by Board Examiners

On

Chairman : Dra. Rara Sugiarti, M.Tourism

NIP. 19630530 199003 2001

Secretary : Dra. Susilorini, M.A.

NIP. 19650601 199203 2002

First Examiner : Dra. Sri Kusumo Habsari, M.Hum, Ph.D.

NIP. 19670323 199512 2001

Second Examiner : Karunia Purna Kusciati, S.S., M.Si.

NIP. 19821124 200912 2002

Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences

Prof. Drs. Riyadi Santosa, M.Ed., Ph.D.
NIP. 19600328 198601 1001

PRONOUNCEMENT

Name : Ifa Nabila

Student Number : C0313023

Stated whole-heartedly that this thesis entitled “**Woman Subjectivity: Maternal Power in *Room* by Emma Donoghue**” is neither plagiarism nor work of others. It is originally made by the researcher. Other people’s work found in this thesis is cited and included in the references.

The researcher is fully responsible for this pronouncement and if this is proven to be wrong, the researcher is willing to take any consequences given by English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, and Universitas Sebelas Maret.

January, 2018

Ifa Nabila

MOTTO

“The best among you are those who bring greatest benefits to many others” –

Muhammad SAW

“Allah gives the hardest battles to his strongest soldier”

“Be the flower that gives its fragrance to even the hand that crushes it” – Ali ibn

Abi Thalib

“Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them” – Dalai Lama

“Woman is a ray of God. She is not that earthly beloved: she is creative, not created” – Rumi

DEDICATION

For my family,

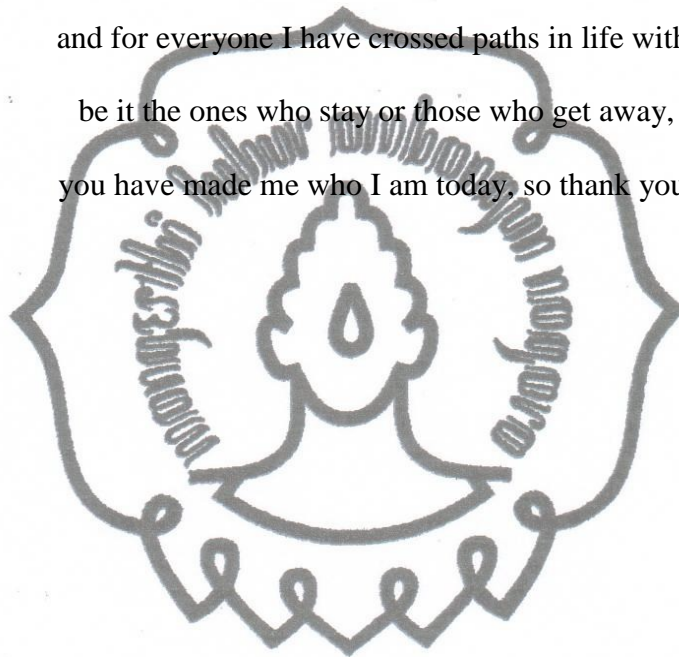
for my friends,

for my teachers,

and for everyone I have crossed paths in life with,

be it the ones who stay or those who get away,

you have made me who I am today, so thank you.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah rabbil'alamiin. All praises belong to Allah SWT. Without His blessings, I may not be able to make it to this point.

Of my four and a half years studying in English Department, this past year has probably been the hardest. Thus, it will be totally selfish to claim that I win this battle by myself. In this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to several people for giving a constant support while I am finishing this thesis. They are:

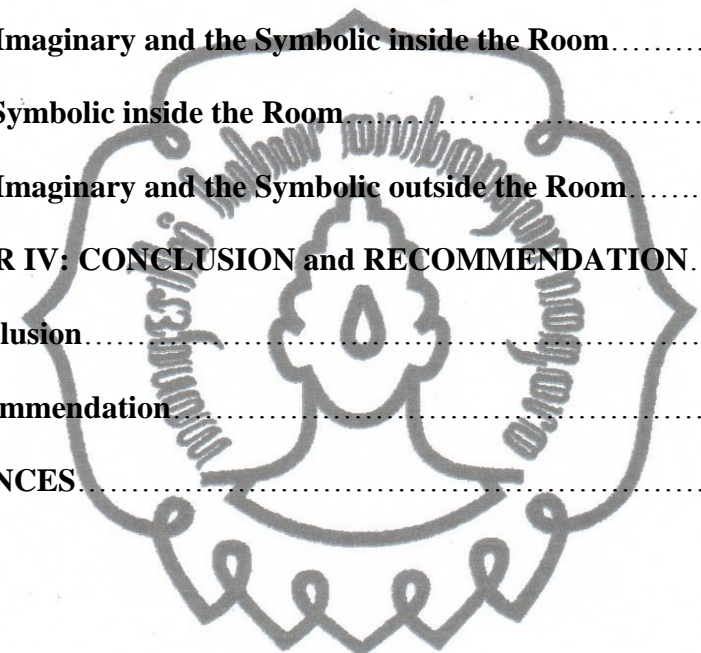
1. Prof. Drs. Riyadi Santosa, M.A., Ph.D., the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences for the approval of this thesis;
2. Drs. Agus Hari Wibowo, M.A., Ph.D., the Head of English Department in Faculty of Cultural Sciences for allowing me to write this thesis and finally finish my study;
3. Dra. Sri Kusumo Habsari, M.Hum., Ph.D. as my thesis supervisor who have helped me a lot and given many inputs for the betterment of this thesis. Thank you for all your patience, guidance, and incredible advice for both academic and life;
4. Dra. Endang Sri Astuti, M.S. as my former thesis supervisor. Thank you for your guidance and advice;
5. Dra. Rara Sugiarti, M.Tourism as my academic supervisor. Thank you for all the assistance and academic guidance;

6. Almh. Justine Niken Afda, S.S., M.A. as the most passionate lecturer.
Thank you for introducing me to the enjoyment for being literature mainstream student;
7. Bapak Sriyono, Ibu Pujisih Handayani, Mbak Anisa Aqmarina as my wholeness in life. Thank you for your limitless patience and assistance.
Sorry for being the most annoying family member;
8. My fellow English Department 2013, especially Ratna Ofvilia, Hastami Cintya, Ishvara P. Hanasti, Andi Priyo, Sejati T. Galih, Isma Rizki, Fatimah, Alm. Husain, and Bima Jati. Thank you for your incredible companion in these years and thank you for being crazy together;
9. Barista aka *Barisan Anak Sastra* which consists of Ratna Ofvilia, Hastami Cintya, Putri Intan, Sejati T. Galih, Arif Budianto, and Nurseto Kidung.
Thank you for the silliness we have shared to each other;
10. Some of English Department uppers, such as Mas Danar, Mbak Sri Mul, Mas Reindra, Mbak Nia, Mbak Mei, Mbak Mala, Mbak Ira, and Mas Ishlah. Thank you for your advice and assistance;
11. My Ex-Smaracatur best friends (Dian Cahya, Anggia Desty, and Cyintia Purnama), my childhood best friend (Dimas Arisandi), my GO best friend (Nabila), and all of DA 12 members. Thank you for being my best friends since forever.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| TITLE | i |
| APPROVAL OF THESIS CONSULTANTS | ii |
| APPROVAL OF BOARD EXAMINERS | iii |
| PRONOUNCEMENT | iv |
| MOTTO | v |
| DEDICATION | vi |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | vii |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | ix |
| ABSTRACT | xi |
| CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| a. Research Background | 1 |
| b. Scope of Study | 8 |
| c. Research Question | 8 |
| d. Research Objective | 8 |
| e. Research Benefits | 8 |
| f. Research Methodology | 9 |
| g. Theoretical Approach | 11 |
| h. Thesis Organization | 14 |
| CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW | 16 |
| a. Jacques Lacan’s Subjectivity Formation | 16 |
| b. Feminist Theory | 21 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| c. Care-focused Feminism..... | 25 |
| d. Todorov’s Equilibrium Theory..... | 27 |
| e. Previous Research..... | 28 |
| CHAPTER III: DISCUSSION..... | 35 |
| a. The Real outside the Room..... | 36 |
| b. The Imaginary and the Symbolic inside the Room..... | 42 |
| c. The Symbolic inside the Room..... | 60 |
| d. The Imaginary and the Symbolic outside the Room..... | 72 |
| CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATION..... | 89 |
| a. Conclusion..... | 88 |
| b. Recommendation..... | 90 |
| REFERENCES..... | 92 |



ABSTRACT

Ifa Nabila. C0313023. Woman Subjectivity: Maternal Power in *Room* by Emma Donoghue. Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Cultural Sciences. Universitas Sebelas Maret.

This research is descriptive qualitative which takes a novel, *Room* by Emma Donoghue, as the object to scrutinize the effort of Ma as the main character, to develop her subjectivity through exercising her maternal power. It is purposed to argue that rather than considering caring and nurturing as the feminine quality, this research stands on the opposite to consider those as maternal power which could convey her subjectivity. This research works under the framework of literary criticism. It focuses on the evaluation, analysis, description, or interpretation of literary works. To develop the argument, the research employs the theory of Todorov, Lacan, and care-focused feminism.

The result shows that woman capacities for care should be considered as her strength, and not her weakness. Maternal power as the manifestation of woman's caring and nurturing could be exercised to develop woman subjectivity, even though she has experienced victimization caused by the rape.

By employing the narrative analysis of Todorov combined with each stage of Lacan's orders in every narrative development of Todorov, Ma could exchange the term *Name-of-the-Father* into *Name-of-the-Mother* for Jack with her ability to take control over everything, changing the room from a mere narrow place into a wide space to develop. By this, Ma with her maternal power to love her son can resist the victimization and survive from her suffering. However, her subjectivity development does not progress perfectly without flaw. Despite the fact of her strength in maternal power, it is still possible for her to get overwhelmed by other severe disruptions. Instead of surrendering, she decides to rise up for her life and her son's by having independent living. Therefore, *Room* is no longer simple "victim and survivor" story, but Woman-Mother's celebration of her triumph over patriarchal discourses.

Keywords: woman subjectivity, maternal power, psychoanalysis, care-focused feminism