

**PANOPTICON AS A MODE OF CONTROLLING  
SOCIETY IN THE TV SERIES  
*BLACK MIRROR***



**THESIS**

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For S1-Degree in English Department

**By :**

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SURAKARTA  
2019**

**THESIS APPROVAL**

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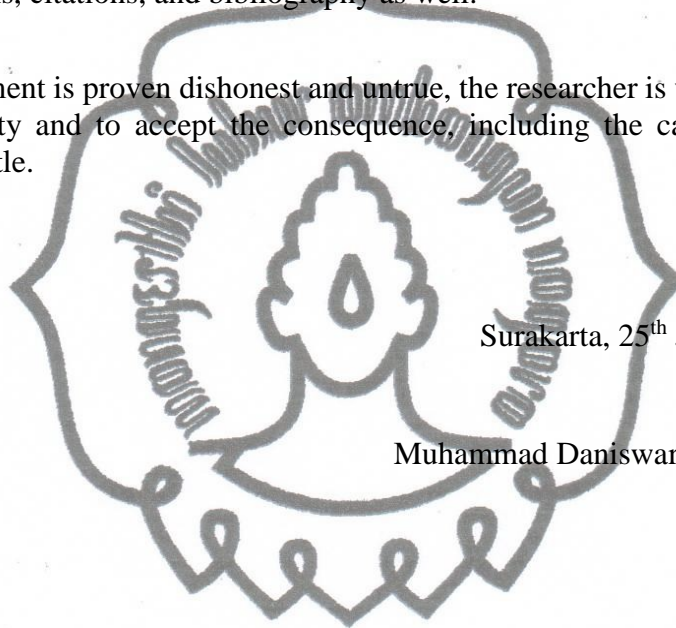
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The researcher hereby states that the thesis entitled *Panopticon as a Mode of Controlling Society in the TV Series Black Mirror* is neither a plagiarism nor work written by others. All the statements that do not belong to the researcher are written in quotations, citations, and bibliography as well.

If the statement is proven dishonest and untrue, the researcher is willing to take the responsibility and to accept the consequence, including the cancellation of the academic title.

Surakarta, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Muhammad Daniswara Wibowo Putra



**MOTTO**

“Well, I don’t know how many years on this earth I got left.  
I’m gonna get real weird with it.”

-Frank Reynolds-

“Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Don't teach a man  
to fish...and feed yourself. He's a grown man. And fishing's  
not that hard.”

-Ron Swanson-

## DEDICATION

I would like to thank my mum for her courage, hard work, kindness, love and never ending support for 22 years to me. I would also like to express my gratitude to Ms. Habsari and Miss Karunia for their tutelage, mentorship and patience in me while writing this thesis. Lastly, I would like to thank Debra and Alwan for their help, cheers and honest yet firm feedback. I would not have made it without all of your supports.



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover.....	i
Thesis Approval by Supervisor and Head of English Department .....	ii
Thesis Approval by the Board of Examiners .....	iii
Pronouncement.....	iv
Motto.....	v
Dedication .....	vi
Acknowledgement.....	vii
Table of Contents .....	viii
Table of Pictures.....	ix
Abstract .....	x
 <b>CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION</b>	
A. Research Background .....	1
B. Scope of Study .....	9
C. Research Questions .....	10
D. Objective of the Study .....	10
E. Significance of the Study .....	10
 <b>CHAPTER II : LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
A. Michel Foucault – Panopticon .....	12
B. Jean Baudrillard – Hyperreality .....	21
C. Manuel Castell – Network Society .....	25
D. Wolfgang Merkel and Johannes Gerschwski .....	29
E. Previous Research .....	30
 <b>CHAPTER III : METHODOLOGY</b>	
A. Type of Research .....	31
B. Data and Source of Data .....	31
C. Technique of Collecting and Analyzing Data .....	32
D. Theoretical Approach .....	33
 <b>CHAPTER IV : DISCUSSIONS</b>	
A. Semiotics of Black Mirror .....	37
B. Nosedive .....	38
C. <i>The National Anthem</i> .....	60
D. White Bear .....	68
 <b>CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION</b>	
Conclusion .....	74
 <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	 79



## TABLE OF PICTURES

Picture 4. 1 .....	38
Picture 4.2 .....	40
Picture 4.3 .....	42
Picture 4.4 .....	45
Picture 4.5 .....	47
Picture 4.6 .....	47
Picture 4.7 .....	48
Picture 4.8 .....	48
Picture 4.9 .....	50
Picture 4.10 .....	51
Picture 4.11 .....	54
Picture 4.12 .....	58
Picture 4.13 .....	62
Picture 4.14 .....	62
Picture 4.15 .....	63
Picture 4.16 .....	65
Picture 4.17 .....	65
Picture 4.18 .....	70
Picture 4.19 .....	71

## ABSTRACT

Muhammad Daniswara Wibowo Putra. B0315039. 2019. **Panopticon as a Mode of Controlling Society in the TV Series *Black Mirror***. Thesis. English Department Faculty of Cultural Studies Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta.

This research focuses on the TV series *Black Mirror*, which contains a depiction of techno-dependent society. This thesis is a semiotic analysis to three episodes of *Black Mirror*. The three episodes are: *Nosedive*, *the National Anthem* and *White Bear*. This research aims to discover the power of Panopticon supported by technology as a tool to regulate society's behavior as portrayed in the selected episodes of *Black Mirror*. According to Foucault, a structure similar to Jeremy Bentham's model of Panopticon erected in society is a requirement to regulate society's behavior. This research also uses Jean Baudrillard's theory of Hyperreality and Manuel Castell's theory of Network Society in supporting the research argument and purpose. This research argues that in the episodes of *Black Mirror*, Foucault's idea of society Panopticon which is supposed to be imaginary is becoming more tangible with further reach in controlling how a member of society should behave.

Keywords: panopticon, hyperreality, network society.

## ABSTRAK

Muhammad Daniswara Wibowo Putra. B0315039. 2019. **Panopticon as a Mode of Controlling Society in the TV Series *Black Mirror***. Thesis. English Department Faculty of Cultural Studies Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta.

Penelitian ini berfokus pada serial TV *Black Mirror*, yang didalamnya terdapat gambaran masyarakat dengan ketergantungan tinggi terhadap teknologi. Tesis ini merupakan analisis semiotik terhadap tiga episode *Black Mirror*. Tiga episode yang di analisis adalah: *Nosedive*, *the National Anthem* dan *White Bear*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggali kekuatan *Panopticon* yang didukung oleh teknologi sebagai alat untuk mengatur perilaku masyarakat seperti yang digambarkan dalam episode-episode *Black Mirror* yang di analisis dalam penelitian ini. Menurut Foucault, struktur yang mirip dengan *Panopticon* yang digagas oleh Jeremy Bentham didirikan dalam masarakat sebagai sebuah syarat untuk mengatur perilaku masyarakat. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori *Hyperreality* dari Jean Baudrillard dan teori *Network Society* dari Manuell Castells untuk mendukung tujuan dan argument dari tesis ini. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa dalam episode-episode *Black Mirror*, gagasan Foucault tentang *Panopticon* dalam masyarakat yang seharusnya imajiner menjadi lebih nyata dengan jangkauan lebih jauh dalam mengendalikan bagaimana anggota masyarakat seharusnya berperilaku.

Kata kunci: *panopticon*, *hyperreality*, *network society*.