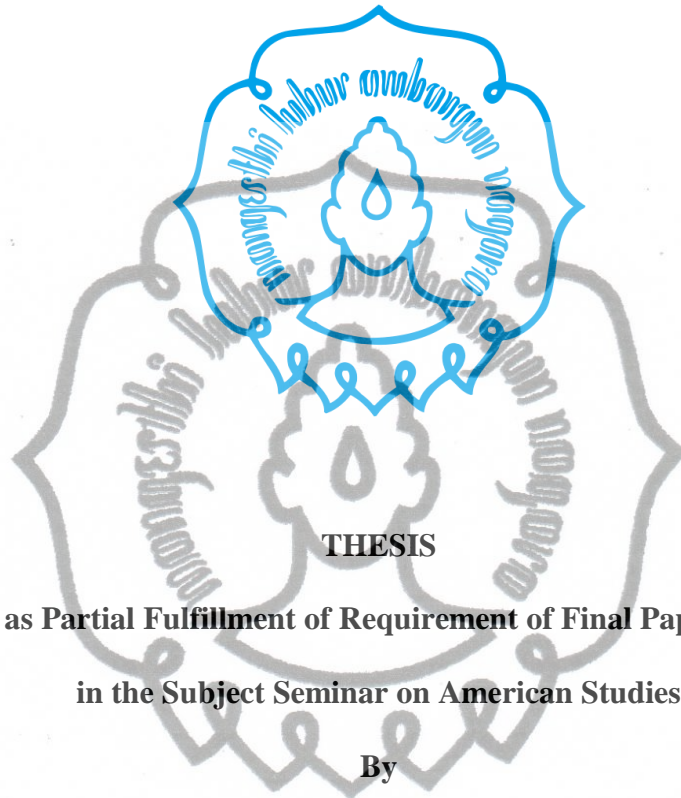


BLACK GAY MASCULINITY REPRESENTED IN *MOONLIGHT* (2016)



THESIS

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of Requirement of Final Paper Assignments
in the Subject Seminar on American Studies**

By

Latifa Sabrina Mahestri Putri Kusuma

B0316022

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

2021

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APPROVAL OF THESIS SUPERVISOR

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Approved to be examined before the Board Examiners

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**THE REPRESENTATION OF BLACK GAY MASCULINITY IN
*MOONLIGHT***

By:

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Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiners

Faculty of Cultural Sciences

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On Thursday, 28 January 2021

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PRONOUNCEMENT

Name : Latifa Sabrina Mahestri

Number : B0316022

I sincerely certify that this thesis entitled **Black Gay Masculinity Represented in *Moonlight* (2016)** is my original work. It is not plagiarism nor written by others. Any materials and previous studies used as reference are written in direct quotation or in paraphrase and cited properly. I am fully responsible for the pronouncement. If it is proven to be wrong, I am willing to take any responsible actions given by the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Sebelas Maret University.

Surakarta, 20 January 2021

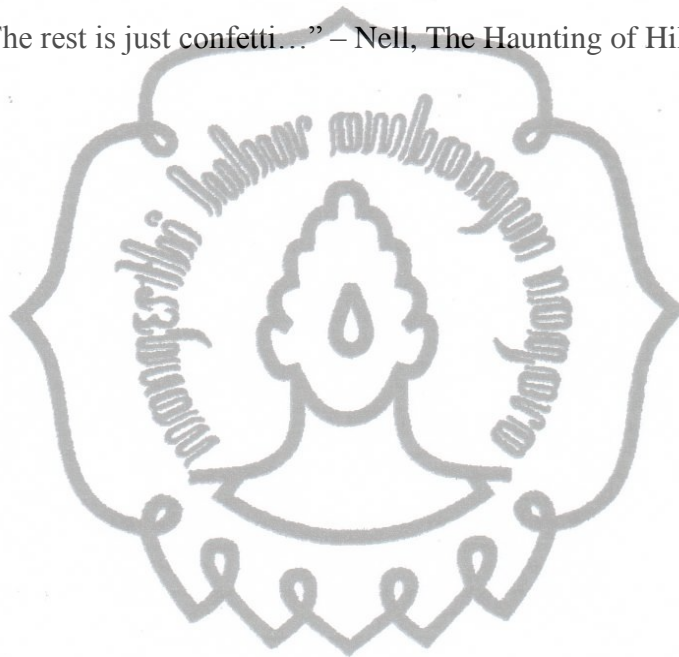


Latifa Sabrina Mahestri

MOTTOS

“And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it” – Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

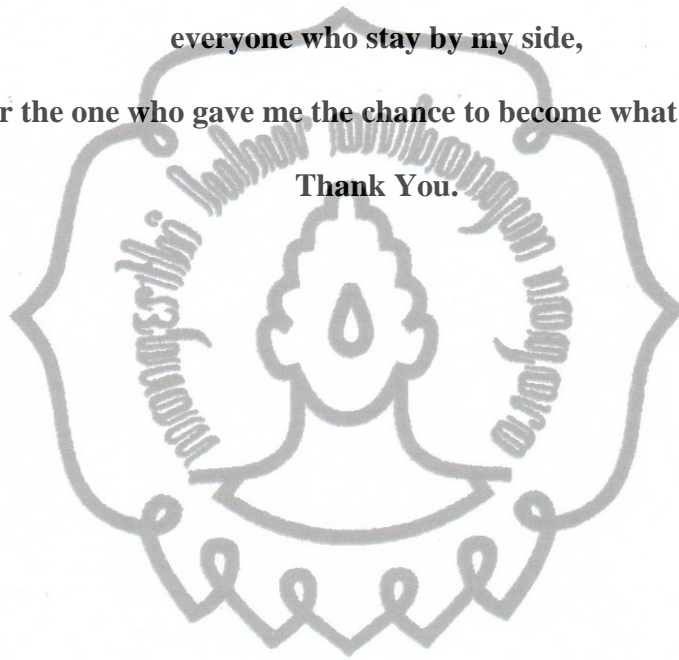
“The rest is just confetti...” – Nell, *The Haunting of Hill House*



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DEDICATION

**For everyone who has given me countless support,
everyone who stay by my side,
and for the one who gave me the chance to become what I am today.
Thank You.**



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

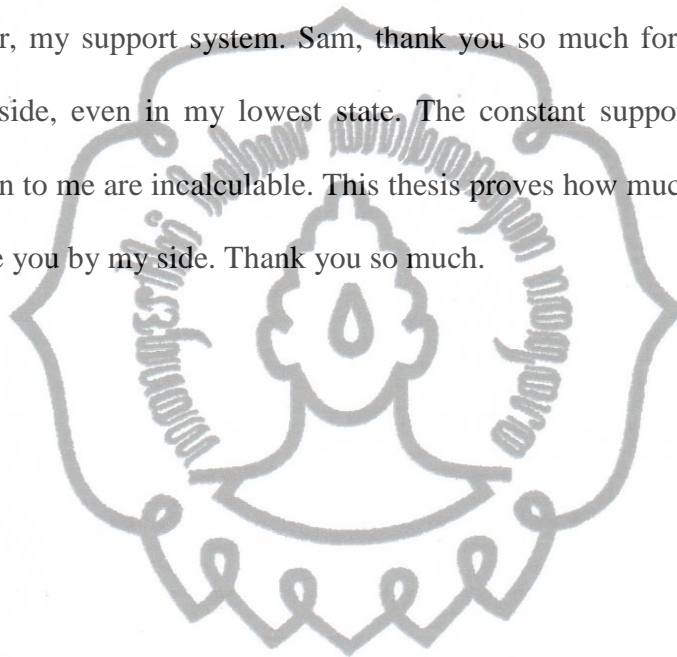
All praises belong to the Almighty God for giving me the strength to overcome my weakness and finally able to finish this thesis.

Through my whole life, this past year has been a roller coaster ride. I am glad that I was able to go through all the hard times even though sometimes the thought of giving up had crossed my mind. Thus, I would like to express my gratitude to several people for giving me the support I needed during the time I am finishing this thesis. These lovely people are:

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5. Dra. Sri Kusumo Habsari, M. Hum., Ph.D, my favorite lecturer who has taught me the value of reading, who has given me a lot of inspirations. Thank you so much for letting me became one of your students. Surely it is the best experience that I would never forget.
6. My deepest gratitude for all of my family for the constant support.

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7. I also thank all of my English Department friends, especially Siwi. I am grateful that in the end you have got to be my friend, someone who never forgot to encourage me to finish this thesis. Thank you so much, I owe you a lot.
8. Lastly, I have dedicated this thesis for my best friends, my significant other, my support system. Sam, thank you so much for always being by my side, even in my lowest state. The constant supports that you have given to me are incalculable. This thesis proves how much I am grateful to have you by my side. Thank you so much.



ABSTRACT

Latifa Sabrina Mahestri. 2021. Black Gay Masculinity Represented in *Moonlight* (2016). Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Cultural Sciences. Sebelas Maret University.

The purpose of this research is to reveal how Black gay masculinity is constructed in the movie *Moonlight* and analyze how the movie represents the LGBTQ identity. This research design is descriptive qualitative which means to find out the portrayal of Black gay masculinity in the movie *Moonlight* and the importance of the identity of LGBTQ in the community. Thus, the method for this research is implemented by watching, classifying, coding and analyzing the data collected. The primary data for this research consist of the materials taken from the movie such as images, dialogues, and other *mis-en-scene*. This research is conducted under the scope of American Studies which is interdisciplinary that includes any other fields in the form of theories and approaches such as gender theory, queer theory, and semiotic movie theory. Furthermore, the socio-cultural approach is used to understand the context of American society. Through the research analysis, it shows that *Moonlight* (2016) represents the image of Black gay masculinity through Chiron's character development in the movie. The representation of manhood and masculinity in the movie becomes an important factor constructed in Chiron's Black gay masculine identity. Thus, development of Chiron identity is always related to the community image on general perception toward Black gay. Hegemonic masculinity and homophobia are few of many factors that give significant impact in building Chiron gay characterization. However, *Moonlight* has given a unique representation of Black LGBTQ in the movie. Unlike any stereotypical LGBTQ movie where black gay men are represented with effeminate identity, *Moonlight* represents the main character, Chiron as a gay that endorses Black masculinity and identity. This movie also defies the concept of heteronormativity by proving that gender is free-floating. It is not about a relationship between the masculine and the feminine, *Moonlight* represent that two masculine men can also have sexual orientation to each other

Keywords: Black Manhood, Free-floating gender, Gay Stereotype, Masculinity, LGBTQ Representation