



**WOMAN CONSTRUCTION IN PAULO COELHO'S**

***THE WITCH OF PORTOBELLO***

**THESIS**

**Written by:**

**ULLYNARA ZUNGA V. S**

**090110101023**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY  
2013**



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**THESIS**

A Thesis Presented to English Department,  
Faculty of Letters, Jember University,  
as One of the Requirements to Obtain  
the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree  
in English Studies

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to:

1. The greatest father ever, Moch. Ilham, who has been my inspiration and someone whom I always look upon to and say “I want to be like him.”;
2. The loveliest mother ever, Agung Setyorini, who always be there when I need her;
3. My younger brothers, Ogan and Rigas, who always be the reason for me to smile every single day;
4. My beloved cat, Meng;
5. Gilang Mursito Aji, the lovely one who understands me really well;
6. Verdin Ganung F. A, Nurul Faris Devi A. A;
7. All of my best friends.

## **MOTTO**

”Knowledge is power.”

*(Sir Francis Bacon, an English author)*

## DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “Woman Construction in Paulo Coelho’s *The Witch of Portobello*” is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, August 24<sup>th</sup> 2013

The Writer,

Ullynara Zungga V. S

NIM : 090110101023

## APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the Examination Committee of the English Department,  
Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Jember, September 24<sup>th</sup> 2013

Chairman,

Secretary,

Prof. Dr. Samudji, M.A.

NIP. 194808161976031002

Irana Astutiningsih, S.S., M.A.

NIP. 197407052005012001

The Members:

1. Prof. Dr. H. Sutarto, M.A. (.....)  
NIP. 194909211975031001
2. Hat Pujiati, S.S., M.A. (.....)  
NIP. 198009082005012001
3. Dra. Hj. Meilia Adriana, M.Pd. (.....)  
NIP. 195105211981032002

Approved by the Dean,

Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed.

NIP.196310151989021001

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Hopefully, this thesis may have a good contribution towards the English Studies, especially those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of literature.

Jember, August 24<sup>th</sup> 2013

Ullynara Zungga, V. S

## SUMMARY

**Woman Construction in Paulo Coelho's THE WITCH OF PORTOBELLO;**  
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This research analyzes how woman is constructed in Paulo Coelho's *The Witch of Portobello*. This novel tells about a woman called Athena, born in Transylvania, an orphan, who is later adopted by a wealthy Lebanese couple. In this novel, Athena as the main character in the novel considered that it is important to think about herself in being a woman and how to manage her womanliness. This novel uses narrative style, which means that Athena's life is told through the stories of the characters which also play important roles in her life. This research aims to gain an understanding on how woman in the novel is constructed based on three points: woman's characteristics, nature and position.

This thesis uses feminist perspective in understanding the form of femininity and language indirection based on Irigaray's theory. Since this research is a qualitative research, a documentary method is used to collect the data. The primary data are the facts and information about woman construction in *The Witch of Portobello*, which are told by the characters, while the secondary data are collected from Paulo Coelho's own perception about woman and femininity in an interview with BBC. The secondary data are used as the background in understanding the construction in the novel, and also to support the analysis. An inductive method is used to analyze the subject matters, it means that a movement of thought is expressed or implied for the specific to the general. This method is helped by discourse method to map the constructions of woman through the lives of the characters in the novel. The information of the constructions leads this research to examine woman's nature and position.



The result of this research shows that women in the novel are described to have choices in their lives. Thus, they can choose whether they want to be in the domestic place or show themselves in the public space, interacting with the society. Their nature is determined by their sexual function. Therefore, a woman becomes a receptor of whatever comes out from a man, especially in the reproduction activity. In Coelho's perspective, a woman can be an active subject of her passivity, because accepting what men expect from women in a full consciousness is one way to be a postfeminist.

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