



**CHILD ABUSE AS THE BACKGROUND OF LITERARY CREATION IN
JUDY WESTWATER'S *STREET KID***

THESIS

A Thesis Presented to the English Department,
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DEDICATION

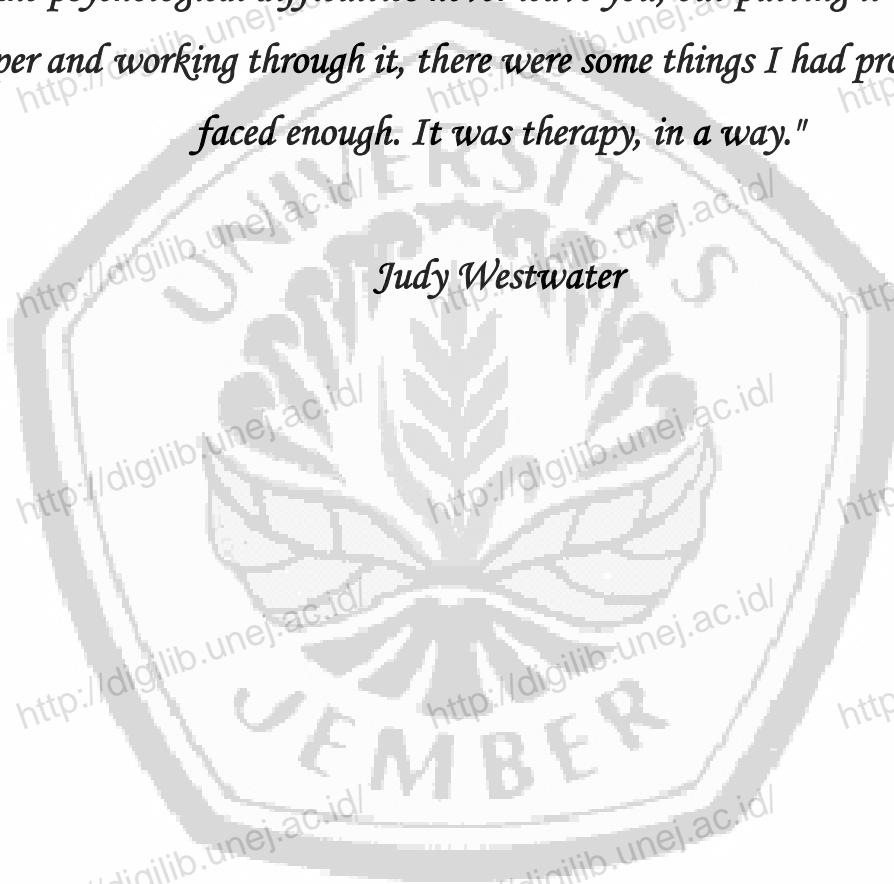
This thesis is dedicated to:

- ❖ **My beloved parents and brother Dugel, Sumi and Edi Siswanto, for their hard works, loves, prayers, supports and affections;**
- ❖ **Andy Ari Wibowo for his endless love;**
- ❖ **All of my friends in Faculty of Letters, especially Mug, Indra, Tyas, Iis, Anis, Khusnul, Aan, Martha, mas Edi, mbak Nova and mas Yongky for their hospitality and friendship;**
- ❖ **My Alma Mater.**

MOTTO

"The psychological difficulties never leave you, but putting it down on paper and working through it, there were some things I had probably not faced enough. It was therapy, in a way."

Judy Westwater



DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled **Child Abuse as the Background of Literary Creation in Judy Westwater's *Street Kid*** is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publication. 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.

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I do realize that no one is perfect. The mistakes in this thesis belong to my being common creature. Finally, I hope this thesis will be useful especially for the progress of English Literature.

Jember, December, 27th 2012

Ima Wulandari

SUMMARY

Child Abuse as the Background of Literary Creation in Judy Westwater's *Street Kid*; Ima Wulandari, 080110191046; 2012: 56 pages; English Department Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Judy Westwater's *Street Kid: One Child's Desperate Fight for Survival* is a memoir novel. This novel tells about child abuses Westwater experienced, such as negligence, and physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Before she wrote the novel, there was no one, who knew about her childhood experience. She just repressed her emotion on her own. She wrote the novel when her friend urged her to write her story down.

Writing the novel is a therapy for Westwater because it may flow out the repressed emotion that never looses and is buried in her unconscious mind. Through writing the novel, the unconscious mind is free to come out. It is like a dream. While in the waking life people cannot express everything they want, in the dream the repressed feeling is free to express. There is a similarity between literary work and dream. Both of them are expressions of unconscious wishes or desires. Therefore, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory especially the theory of interpretation of dream is applied because the purpose of this study is to analyze Westwater's creative process. There are three steps of the analysis; first, identifying child abuse she experienced, second identifying the influences of child abuses on her emotion repressed in her unconscious mind and the last, identifying her unconscious mind which is expressed in the novel. The result of this research shows that Judy Westwater's creative process is influenced by her unconscious mind shaped by her experience of child abuses and her society.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

Judy Westwater's *Street Kid: One Child's Desperate Fight for Survival* is a memoir novel. This novel tells about child abuses she experienced, such as negligence, and physical, emotional and sexual abuse. It also contains about how she fights to survive and what actually she wants in the life. Before she writes the novel, there is no one, who knows about her childhood experience. She just repressed her emotion on her own. She wrote the novel when her friend Shaun McKenna, a playwright and principal of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, urged her to write her story down. It is supported by her statement when she told her story to the John Peel on BBC Radio 4's Home Truths as reported in <http://www.inverness-courier.co.uk> (2006) that she really was not sure that she could do it, because she had put her past in a box and shelved it. However, she thought that she had to try because Shaun thought that her story could inspire somebody else. She said that if it was the case, some good would come out from her story. She also said that some good had to come out from what happened to her.

Child abuses she experienced were started when she was two year-old. In postwar Manchester, Judy Westwater was taken from her mother and sisters by her spiritualist preacher father to live with him and his girlfriend, Freda. After that Freda always kept her in the backyard and left her without any foods so that she scavenged food from bins because of hunger. At four, she was sent to a cruelly strict Catholic orphanage, before living with her cruel father again. For the next three years she was treated as a slave by his father and Freda.

After her father took her to South Africa, she ran away to join the circus where she found her first taste of friendship and freedom. However, her father found